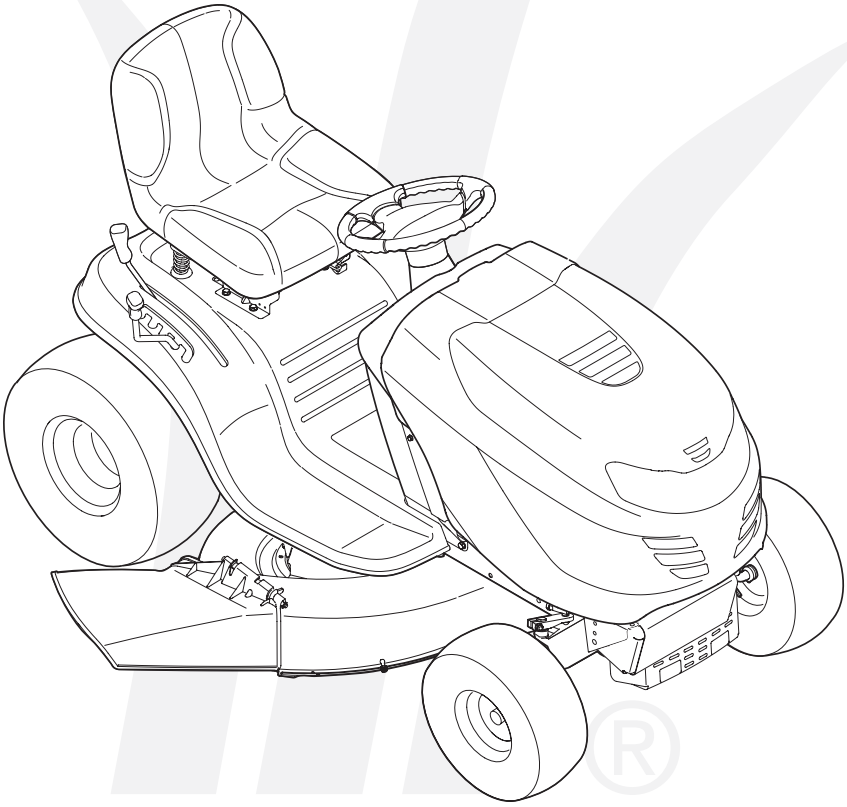
Safety • Set-Up • Operation • Adjustments • Maintenance • Troubleshooting • Warranty

OPERATOR'S MANUAL

COLUMBIA®



Lawn Tractor — Model 76G

IMPORTANT:
READ SAFETY RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE OPERATION

LES DISTRIBUTIONS RVI LIMITÉE, 2955, JEAN-BAPTISTE DESCHAMPS, LACHINE, QUEBEC H8T 1C5
MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

769-04781
1.16.09

This Operator's Manual is an important part of your new equipment. It will help you assemble, prepare and maintain the unit for best performance. Please read and understand what it says.

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Finding and Recording Model Number

BEFORE YOU START ASSEMBLING
YOUR NEW EQUIPMENT,
please locate the model plate on the equipment and copy the information from it in the space provided below. You can locate the model number by looking beneath the seat. This information will be necessary to use the manufacturer's web site and/or help from the Customer Support Department or an authorized service dealer.

Model Number

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Serial Number

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

Customer Support

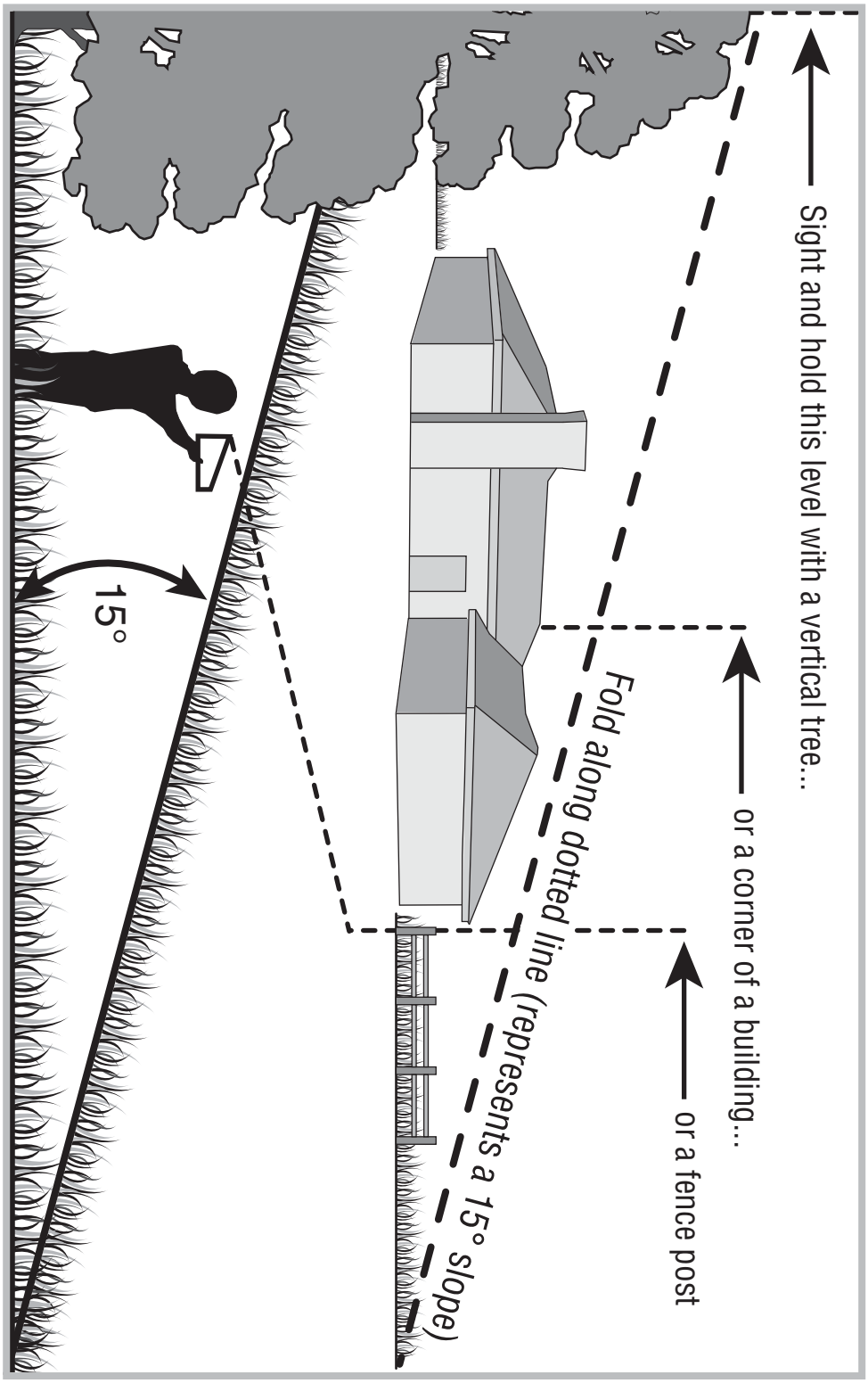
Please do *NOT* return the unit to the retailer from which it was purchased, without first contacting Customer Support.

1. If you have difficulty assembling this product or have any questions regarding the controls, operation or maintenance of this unit, please call an authorized dealer.

   Please have your unit's model number and serial number ready when you call. See previous section to locate this information.

2. The engine manufacturer is responsible for all engine-related issues with regards to performance, power-rating, specifications, warranty and service. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's Owner's/Operator's Manual, packed separately with your unit, for more information.

Use this page as a guide to determine slopes where you may not operate safely. **Do not operate** your lawn mower on such slopes.


Sight and hold this level with a vertical tree...
or a corner of a building...
or a fence post
Fold along dotted line (represents a 15° slope)
15°

1

Slope Gauge

WARNING

Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury.

Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes.

2

Safe Operation Practices

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol, **HEED ITS WARNING.**

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

WARNING: Engine Exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

DANGER: This machine was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. This machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

General Operation

1. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before attempting to assemble and operate. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
2. Be familiar with all controls and their proper operation. Know how to stop the machine and disengage them quickly.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the instructions and safe operation practices in this manual and on the machine and should be trained and supervised by a adult.
4. Never allow adults to operate this machine without proper instruction.
5. To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, keep bystanders, helpers, children and pets at least 75 feet from the machine while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.
6. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys, and other foreign objects which could be picked up and thrown by the blade(s). Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury.
7. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
8. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation and while performing an adjustment or repair to protect your eyes. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
9. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Loose fitting clothes and jewelry can be caught in movable parts. Never operate this machine in bare feet or sandals.
10. Be aware of the mower and attachment discharge direction and do not point it at anyone. Do not operate the mower without the discharge cover or entire grass catcher in its proper place.
11. Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under the cutting deck. Contact with the blade(s) can amputate hands and feet.
12. A missing or damaged discharge cover can cause blade contact or thrown object injuries.
13. Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads and while not cutting grass.
14. Watch for traffic when operating near or crossing roadways. This machine is not intended for use on any public roadway.
15. Do not operate the machine while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
16. Mow only in daylight or good artificial light.
17. Never carry passengers.
18. Disengage blade(s) before shifting into reverse. Back up slowly. Always look down and behind before and while backing to avoid a back-over accident.
19. Slow down before turning. Operate the machine smoothly. Avoid erratic operation and excessive speed.
20. Disengage blade(s), set parking brake, stop engine and wait until the blade(s) come to a complete stop before removing grass catcher, emptying grass, unclogging chute, removing any grass or debris, or making any adjustments.
21. Never leave a running machine unattended. Always turn off blade(s), place transmission in neutral, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key before dismounting.
22. Use extra care when loading or unloading the machine into a trailer or truck. This unit should not be driven up or down ramp(s), because the unit could tip over, causing serious personal injury. The unit must be pushed manually on ramp(s) to load or unload properly.
23. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
24. Check overhead clearances carefully before driving under low hanging tree branches, wires, door openings etc., where the operator may be struck or pulled from the unit, which could result in serious injury.
25. Disengage all attachment clutches, depress the brake pedal completely and shift into neutral before attempting to start engine.
26. Your machine is designed to cut normal residential grass of a height no more than 10". Do not attempt to mow through unusually tall, dry grass (e.g., pasture) or piles of dry leaves. Dry grass or leaves may contact the engine exhaust and/or build up on the mower deck presenting a potential fire hazard.
27. Use only accessories and attachments approved for this machine by the machine manufacturer. Read, understand and follow all instructions provided with the approved accessory or attachment.
28. Data indicates that operators, age 60 years and above, are involved in a large percentage of riding mower-related injuries. These operators should evaluate their ability to operate the riding mower safely enough to protect themselves and others from serious injury.
29. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your customer service representative for assistance.

Slope Operation

Slopes are a major factor related to loss of control and tip-over accidents which can result in severe injury or death. All slopes require extra caution. If you cannot back up the slope or if you feel uneasy on it, do not mow it.
For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge, do not operate this unit on that area or serious injury could result.

Do:

1. Mow up and down slopes, not across. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Use slow speed. Choose a low enough speed setting so that you will not have to stop or shift while on the slope. Tires may lose traction on slopes even though the brakes are functioning properly. Always keep machine in gear when going down slopes to take advantage of engine braking action.
4. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for wheel weights or counterweights to improve stability.
5. Use extra care with grass catchers or other attachments. These can change the stability of the machine.
6. Keep all movement on the slopes slow and gradual. Do not make sudden changes in speed or direction. Rapid engagement or braking could cause the front of the machine to lift and rapidly flip over backwards which could cause serious injury.
7. Avoid starting or stopping on a slope. If tires lose traction, disengage the blade(s) and proceed slowly straight down the slope.

Do Not:

1. Do not turn on slopes unless necessary; then, turn slowly and gradually downhill, if possible.
2. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments. The mower could suddenly turn over if a wheel is over the edge of a cliff, ditch, or if an edge caves in.
3. Do not try to stabilize the machine by putting your foot on the ground.
4. Do not use a grass catcher on steep slopes.
5. Do not mow on wet grass. Reduced traction could cause sliding.
6. Do not shift to neutral and coast downhill. Over-speeding may cause the operator to lose control of the machine resulting in serious injury or death.
7. Do not tow heavy pull behind attachments (e.g. loaded dump cart, lawn roller, etc.) on slopes greater than 5 degrees. When going down hill, the extra weight tends to push the tractor and may cause you to loose control. (e.g. tractor may speed up, braking and steering ability are reduced, attachment may jack-knife and cause tractor to overturn).

Children

1. Tragic accidents can occur if the operator is not alert to the presence of children. Children are often attracted to the machine and the mowing activity. They do not understand the dangers. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.
   a. Keep children out of the mowing area and in watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
   b. Be alert and turn machine off if a child enters the area.
   c. Before and while backing, look behind and down for small children.
   d. Never carry children, even with the blade(s) shut off. They may fall off and be seriously injured or interfere with safe machine operation.
   e. Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees or other objects that may block your vision of a child who may run into the machine.
   f. **To avoid back-over accidents, always disengage the cutting blade(s) before shifting into Reverse. If equipped, the "Reverse Caution Mode" should not be used when children or others are around.**
   g. Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
   h. Remove key when machine is unattended to prevent unauthorized operation.
2. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the instructions and safe operation practices in this manual and on the machine and should be trained and supervised by a adult.

Towing

1. Tow only with a machine that has a hitch designed for towing. Do not attach towed equipment except at the hitch point.
2. Follow the manufacturers recommendation for weight limits for towed equipment and towing on slopes.
3. Never allow children or others in or on towed equipment.
4. On slopes, the weight of the towed equipment may cause loss of traction and loss of control.
5. Always use extra caution when towing with a machine capable of making tight turns (e.g. "zero-turn" ride-on mower). Make wide turns to avoid jack-knifing.
6. Travel slowly and allow extra distance to stop.
6. Do not shift to neutral and coast downhill.

Service

Safe Handling of Gasoline:

1. To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline. **Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive.** Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes which can ignite. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.
   a. Use only an approved gasoline container.
   b. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
   c. When practical, remove gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.
   d. Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.

2

Safe Operation Practices

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol, **HEED ITS WARNING.**

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

2

Safe Operation Practices

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol, **HEED ITS WARNING.**

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

e. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
f. Never fuel machine indoors.
g. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while the engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
h. Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than ½ inch below bottom of filler neck to allow space for fuel expansion.
i. Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
j. If gasoline is spilled, wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move unit to another area. Wait 5 minutes before starting the engine.
k. To reduce fire hazards, keep machine free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
l. Never store the machine or fuel container inside where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
m. Allow a machine to cool at least five minutes before storing.

General Service

1. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless, and deadly gas.
2. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade(s) and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.
3. Periodically check to make sure the blades come to complete stop within approximately (5) five seconds after operating the blade disengagement control. If the blades do not stop within the this time frame, your unit should be serviced professionally by an authorized Service Dealer.
4. Check brake operation frequently as it is subjected to wear during normal operation. Adjust and service as required.
5. Check the blade(s) and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade(s) for damage (e.g., excessive wear, bent, cracked). Replace the blade(s) with the original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) blade(s) only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
6. Mower blades are sharp. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
7. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
8. Never tamper with the safety interlock system or other safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
9. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the machine for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating.
10. Never attempt to make adjustments or repairs to the machine while the engine is running.
11. Grass catcher components and the discharge cover are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
12. Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
13. Maintain or replace safety and instruction labels, as necessary.
14. Observe proper disposal laws and regulations for gas, oil, etc. to protect the environment.
15. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this product has an *Average Useful Life* of seven (7) years, or 270 hours of operation. At the end of the *Average Useful Life*, have the machine inspected annually by an authorized service dealer to ensure that all mechanical and safety systems are working properly and not worn excessively. Failure to do so can result in accidents, injuries or death.

Spark Arrestor

WARNING: This machine is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brushcovered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or provincial laws (if any).

If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator.
A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer.

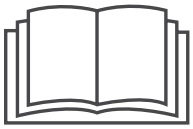
Do not modify engine

To avoid serious injury or death, do not modify engine in any way. Tampering with the governor setting can lead to a runaway engine and cause it to operate at unsafe speeds. Never tamper with factory setting of engine governor.

Notice regarding Emissions

Engines which are certified to comply with California and federal EPA emission regulations for SORE (Small Off Road Equipment) are certified to operate on regular unleaded gasoline, and may include the following emission control systems: Engine Modification (EM) and Three Way Catalyst (TWC) if so equipped.

This page depicts and describes safety symbols that may appear on this product. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine before attempting to assemble and operate.

Symbol	Description
	READ THE OPERATOR'S MANUAL(S) Read, understand, and follow all instructions in the manual(s) before attempting to assemble and operate
	DANGER— ROTATING BLADES Never carry passengers. Never carry children, even with the blades off.
	DANGER— ROTATING BLADES Always look down and behind before and while backing to avoid a back-over accident.
	WARNING— ROTATING BLADES Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under the cutting deck. Contact with the blade(s) can amputate hands and feet.
	WARNING—THROWN OBJECTS This machine may pick up and throw and objects which can cause serious personal injury.
	WARNING—THROWN OBJECTS This machine may pick up and throw and objects which can cause serious personal injury.
	BYSTANDERS Keep bystanders, helpers, children and pets at least 75 feet from the machine while it is in operation.
	WARNING— SLOPE OPERATION Do not operate this machine on a slope greater than 15 degrees.
	WARNING— HOT SURFACE Engine parts, especially the muffler, become extremely hot during operation. Allow engine and muffler to cool before touching.
	DANGER — ROTATING BLADES To reduce the risk of injury, keep hands and feet away. Do not operate unless discharge cover or grass catcher is in its proper place. If damaged, replace immediately.

2

Safe Symbols

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol, **HEED ITS WARNING.**

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

3 Setting Up Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Never fuel machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition.

NOTE: This Operators Manual covers a range of product specifications for various models. Characteristics and features discussed and/or illustrated in this manual *may not* be applicable to all models. MTD LLC reserves the right to change product specifications, designs and equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.

NOTE: This Operators Manual covers a range of product specifications for various models. Characteristics and features discussed and/or illustrated in this manual *may not* be applicable to all models. MTD LLC reserves the right to change product specifications, designs and equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.

Connecting the Battery Cables

CAUTION: When attaching battery cables, always connect the POSITIVE (Red) wire to its terminal first, followed by the NEGATIVE (Black) wire.

For shipping reasons, both battery cables on your equipment may have been left disconnected from the terminals at the factory. To connect the battery cables, proceed as follows:

NOTE: The positive battery terminal is marked Pos. (+). The negative battery terminal is marked Neg. (–).

- Remove the plastic cover, if present, from the positive battery terminal and attach the red cable to the positive battery terminal (+) with the bolt and hex nut. See Fig. 3-1.
- Remove the plastic cover, if present, from the negative battery terminal and attach the black cable to the negative battery terminal (–) with the bolt and hex nut. See Fig. 3-1.
- Position the red rubber boot over the positive battery terminal to help protect it from corrosion.

NOTE: If the battery is put into service after the date shown on top of battery, charge the battery as instructed in the Maintenance section of this manual prior to operating the tractor.

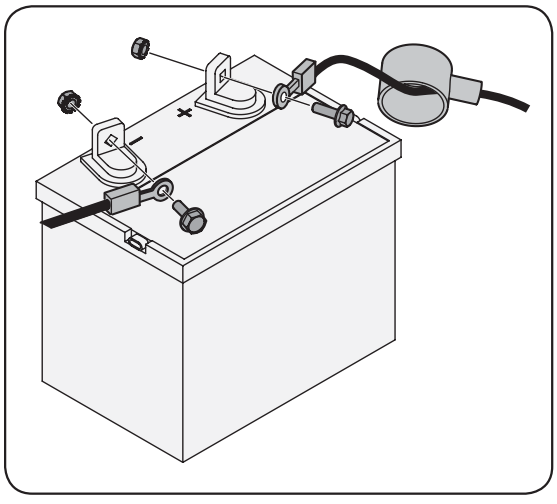


Figure 3-1

Gas and Oil Fill-up

The gasoline tank is located under the hood and has a capacity of 1-1/2 gallons. Do not overfill.

WARNING: Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Never fuel machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition.

Service the engine with gasoline and oil as instructed in the separate Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your tractor. Read instructions carefully.

IMPORTANT: Your tractor is shipped with motor oil in the engine. However, you MUST check the oil level before operating. Be careful not to overfill.

Shipping Brace Removal

WARNING: Make sure the riding mower's engine is off, remove the ignition key, and set the parking brake before removing the shipping brace.

- Locate the shipping brace, if present, and accompanying warning tag found on the right side of the mower, between the discharge chute and the cutting deck. See Figure 3-2.
- While holding the discharge chute with your left hand, remove the shipping brace with your right hand by grasping it between your thumb and index finger and rotating it clockwise.

WARNING: The shipping brace, used for packaging purposes only, must be removed and discarded before operating your riding mower.

WARNING: The mowing deck is capable of throwing objects. Failure to operate the riding mower without the discharge cover in the proper operating position could result in serious personal injury and/or property damage.

Attaching The Steering Wheel

If the steering wheel for your tractor did not come attached, the hardware for attaching it has been packed within the steering wheel, beneath the steering wheel cap. Carefully pry off the steering wheel cap and remove the hardware.

NOTE: There are two different syles of steeering wheel caps. Styles vary by model.

1. **With the wheels of the tractor pointing straight forward**, place the steering wheel over the steering shaft.
2. Place the washer (with the cupped side down) over the steering shaft and secure with the hex bolt. See Figure 3-3.

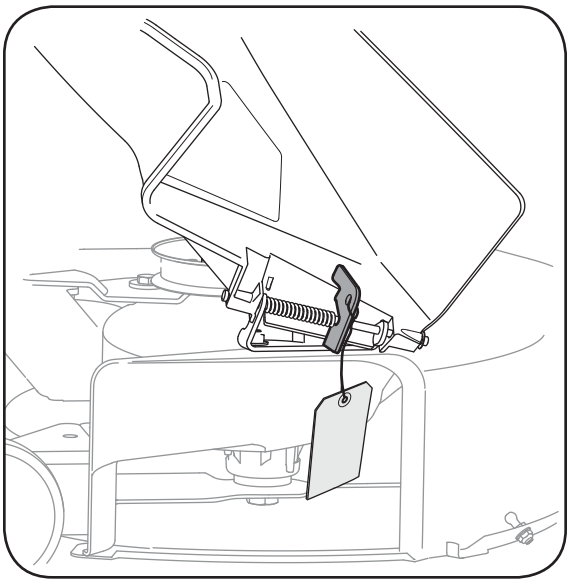


Figure 3-2

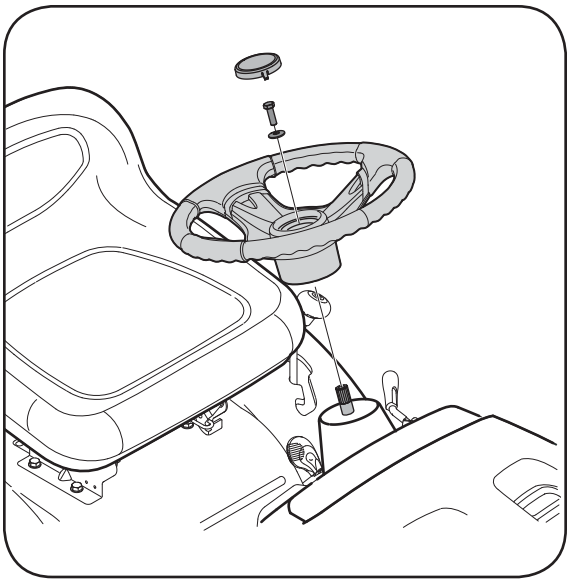


Figure 3-3

3. Place the steering wheel cap over the center of the steering wheel and push downward until it “clicks” into place.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT overtighten.

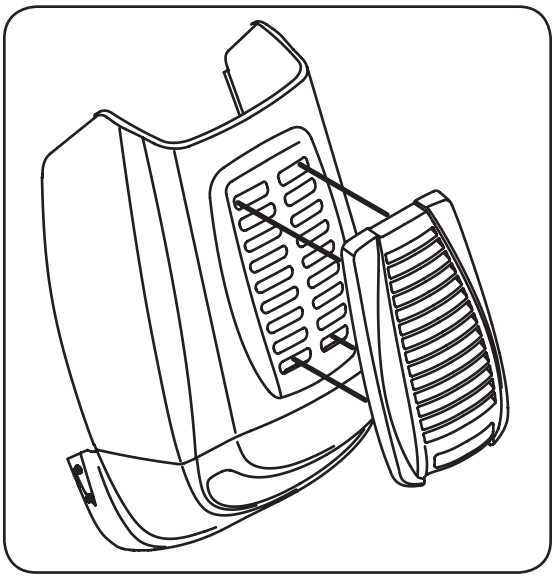


Figure 3-4

Attaching the Hood Scoop

If so equipped)

If the hood scoop was not secured to the hood of your tractor at the factory, you will find it in a plastic bag, hanging from the throttle lever.

To install:

1. Carefully pivot the tractor hood forward.
2. Remove the four screws from the underside of the hood scoop.
3. Line up the four holes in the hood scoop with the four holes visible through the tractor’s hood louvres. See Figure 3-4.
4. While holding the scoop in place, use a 3/8” socket wrench (or box wrench) to carefully tighten the scoop onto the hood. Do NOT overtighten.

3 Setting Up Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Make sure the riding mower’s engine is off, remove the ignition key, and set the parking brake before removing the shipping brace.

The shipping brace, used for packaging purposes only, must be removed and discarded before operating your riding mower.

The mowing deck is capable of throwing objects. Failure to operate the riding mower without the discharge cover in the proper operating position could result in serious personal injury and/or property damage.

3

Setting Up Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Before operating this machine, make sure the seat is engaged in the seat stop, stand behind the machine and pull back on seat until fully engaged into stop.

For shipping reasons, seats are either fastened to the tractor seat's pivot bracket with a plastic tie, or mounted backward to the pivot bracket. In either case, free the seat form its shipping position and remove the two hex screws (or knobs, on models so equipped) from the bottom of seat before proceeding with applicable instructions.

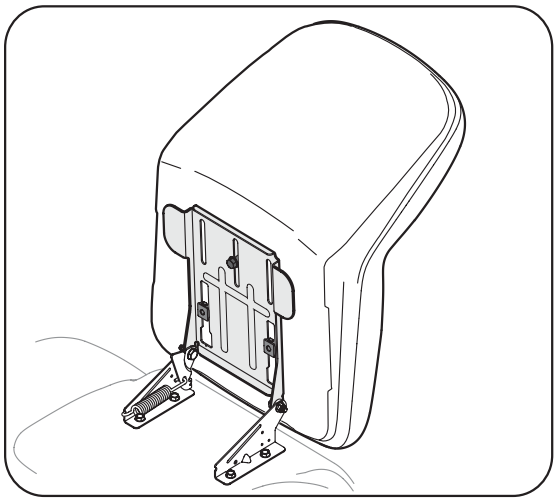


Figure 3-5

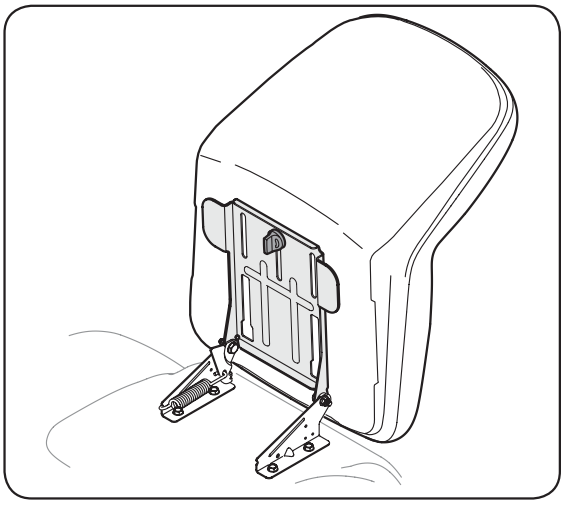


Figure 3-6

Attaching The Seat

If the seat for your tractor did not come attached, refer to Figure 3-5, Figure 3-6, and Figure 3-7 to identify your tractor's seat style and follow the applicable instructions below to attach it.

NOTE: For shipping reasons, seats are either fastened to the tractor seat's pivot bracket with a plastic tie, or mounted backward to the pivot bracket. In either case, free the seat form its shipping position and remove the hex screw (or knob) from the bottom of seat before proceeding with applicable instructions below.

1. Position the shoulder screws (found on the base of the seat) inside the slot openings in the seat pivot bracket. Figure 3-5 or Figure 3-6.
2. Slide the seat slightly rearward in the seat pivot bracket, lining up the rear slots in the pivot bracket with the remaining two holes in the seat's base.
3. Select desired position for the seat, and secure with the hex screw (See Figure 3-5) or knob (See Figure 3-6) removed earlier.
4. To adjust the position of the seat, loosen the hex screw (or knob if equipped) on the bottom of the seat. Slide the seat forward or backward as desired. Retighten the screw (or knob).

Tire Pressure

WARNING: Maximum tire pressure under any circumstances is 30 psi. Equal tire pressure should be maintained at all times.

The tires on your unit may be over-inflated for shipping purposes. Reduce the tire pressure before operating the tractor. Recommended operating tire pressure is approximately 10 p.s.i for the rear tires & 14 p.s.i. for the front tires. Check sidewall of tire for maximum p.s.i

Identifying the Mulch Plug (if so equipped)

On tractor models so equipped, a mulch plug can either be found within the cutting deck's discharge opening or packed separately with your unit.

NOTE: Refer to **Mulching** in the Operation section of this manual for more detailed information.

If you'd prefer to operate the cutting deck without mulching, simply remove the mulch plug by unthreading the plastic wing nut which fastens it to the cutting deck. This will allow the clippings to discharge out of the discharge opening during operation. See Figure 3-7.

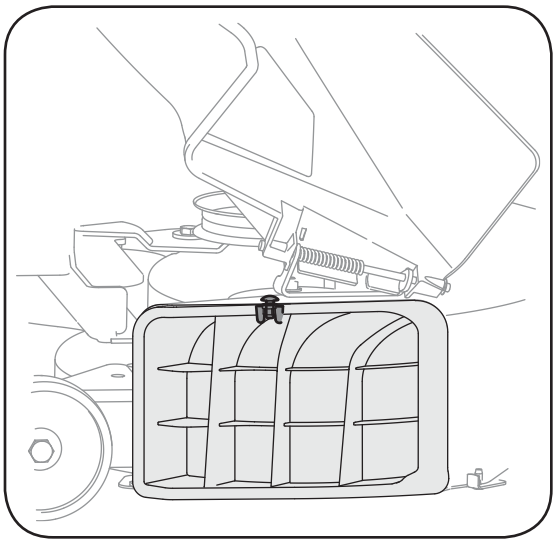


Figure 3-7

Setting the Deck Gauge Wheels (if so equipped)

Move the tractor on a firm and level surface, preferably pavement, and proceed as follows

1. Select the height position of the cutting deck by placing the deck lift lever in the normally desired mowing height setting (any of the six different cutting height notches on the right fender).
2. Check the gauge wheels for contact or excessive clearance with the surface below. The deck gauge wheels should have between ¼-inch and ½-inch clearance above the ground as follows:

If the gauge wheels have excessive clearance or contact with the surface, adjust as follows:

a. Raise the deck lift handle to its highest setting.

b. Remove the gauge wheels by removing the lock nuts and shoulder screws which secure them to the deck. See Fig. 3-8.

c. Place the deck lift lever in the desired mowing height setting.

d. Reinsert the shoulder screw (with each gauge wheel) into the index hole that leaves approximately ½-inch between the bottom of the wheel and the pavement.

Refer to **Leveling the Deck** in the Maintenance section of this manual for more detailed instructions regarding various deck adjustments.

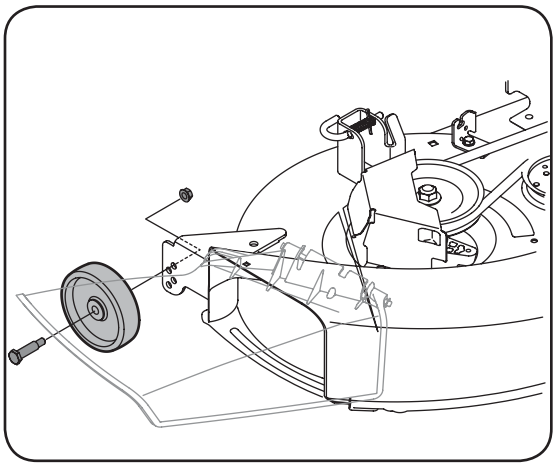


Figure 3-8

3 Setting Up Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Maximum tire pressure under any circumstances is 30 psi. Equal tire pressure should be maintained at all times.

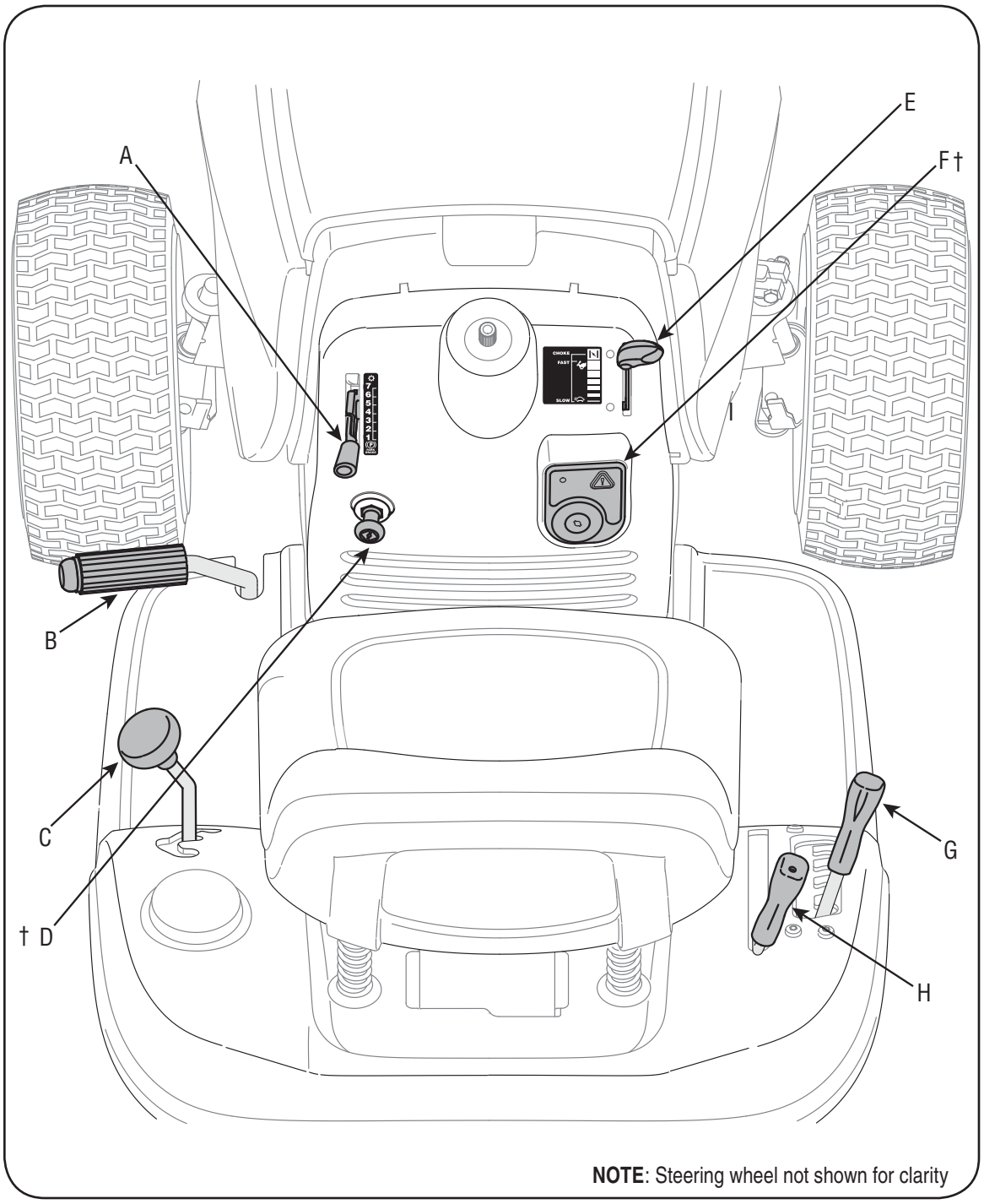
4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

NOTE: Any reference in this manual to the RIGHT or LEFT side of the tractor is observed from operator's position.

For shipping reasons, seats are either fastened to the tractor seat's pivot bracket with a plastic tie, or mounted backward to the pivot bracket. In either case, free the seat form its shipping position and remove the two hex screws (or knobs, on models so equipped) from the bottom of seat before proceeding with applicable instructions.

Know Your Lawn Tractor



NOTE: Steering wheel not shown for clarity

Figure 4-1

† If so equipped

A	Speed Control Lever/ Parking Brake	E	Throttle Control Lever
B	Clutch-Brake Pedal	F	Ignition Switch Module †
C	Shift Lever	G	Deck Lift Lever
D	Choke Control†	H	PTO (Blade Engage) Lever

WARNING: Read and follow all safety rules and instructions in this manual, including the entire Operation section, before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with all safety rules and instructions may rerult in personal injury.

Throttle Control Lever

The throttle control lever is located on the right side of the tractor's dash panel. This lever controls the speed of the engine and, on some models, when pushed all the way forward, the choke control also. When set in a given position, the throttle will maintain a uniform engine speed. See Figure 4-2.

IMPORTANT: When operating the tractor with the cutting deck engaged, be certain that the throttle lever is **always** in the FAST (rabbit) position.

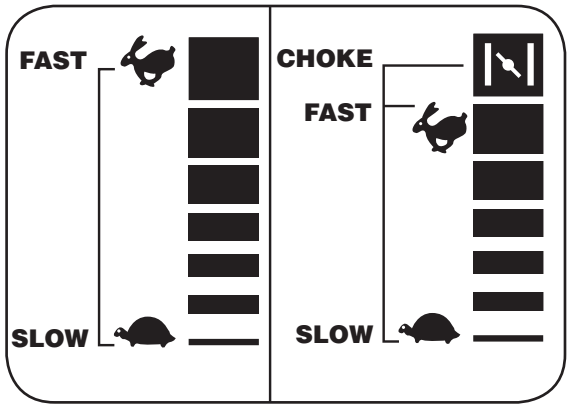
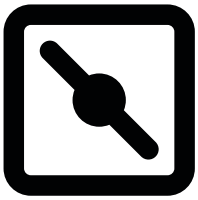


Figure 4-2

Choke Control



On some models, moving the throttle lever all the way forward activates the engine's choke control. On all other models, the choke control can be found on the left side of the dash panel and is activated by pulling the knob outward. Activating the choke control closes the choke plate on the carburetor and aids in starting the engine. Refer to **Starting The Engine** in the OPERATING section manual for detailed starting instructions.

Ignition Switch

The ignition switch is activated to start the engine. Insert key into the ignition switch and turn clockwise to the **START** position. Release the key into the **ON** position once engine has fired.

To stop the engine, turn the ignition key counterclockwise to the **OFF** position.

Figure 4-3A - The headlights are on when the engine is running.

Figure 4-3B - To activate the headlights, turn the key one more position to the left. The engine will continue to run with the headlights on.

Ignition Switch Module (If Equipped)

To start the engine, insert the key into the ignition switch and turn clockwise to the **START** position. Release the key into the **NORMAL MOWING MODE** position once the engine has fired.

To stop the engine, turn the ignition key counterclockwise to the **OFF** position. See Figure 4-3C.

WARNING: Never leave a running machine unattended. Always disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

IMPORTANT: Prior to operating the tractor, refer to both **Safety Interlock Switches** and **Starting The Engine** in the OPERATING section of this manual for detailed instructions regarding the Ignition Switch Module and operating the tractor in **REVERSE CAUTION MODE**.

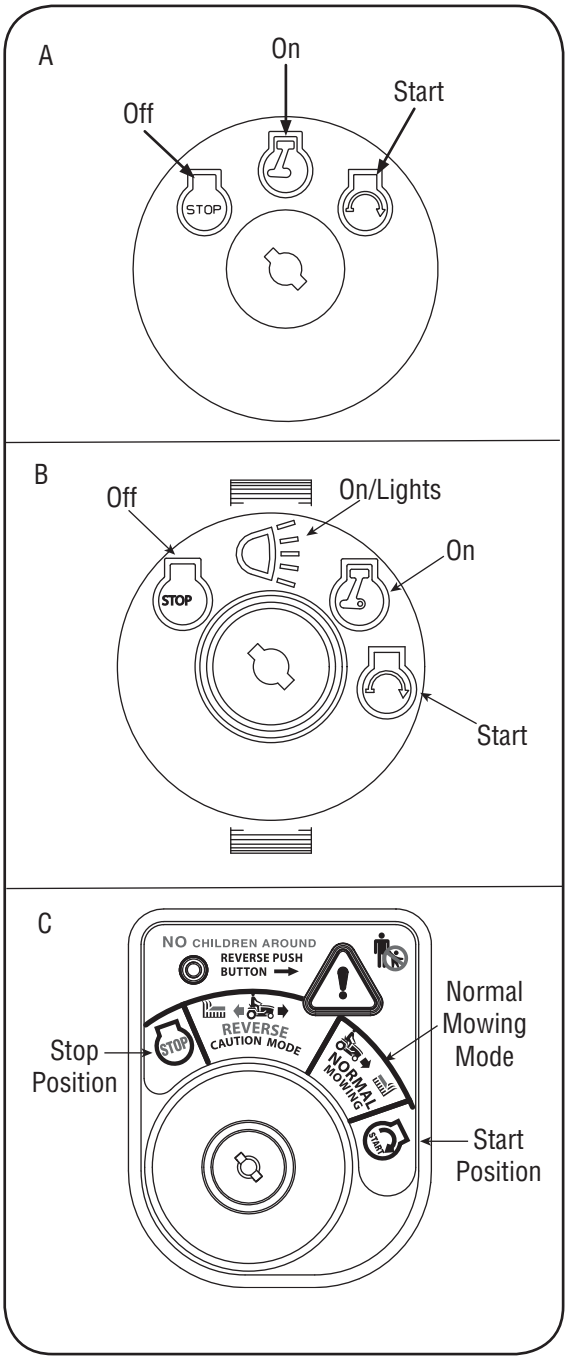


Figure 4-3

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Never leave a running machine unattended. Always disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

IMPORTANT

Prior to operating the tractor, refer to both **Safety Interlock Switches** on page 14 and **Starting The Engine** on page 16 of this manual for detailed instructions regarding the Ignition Switch Module and operating the tractor in **REVERSE CAUTION MODE**.

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Do not operate the tractor if the interlock system is malfunctioning. This system was designed for your safety and protection.

NOTE: The parking brake must be set if the operator leaves the seat with the engine running or the engine will automatically shut off.

NOTE: The PTO (Blade Engage) lever must be in the disengaged (PTO OFF) position when starting the engine.

IMPORTANT
Never force the shift lever. Doing so may result in serious damage to the tractor's transmission.

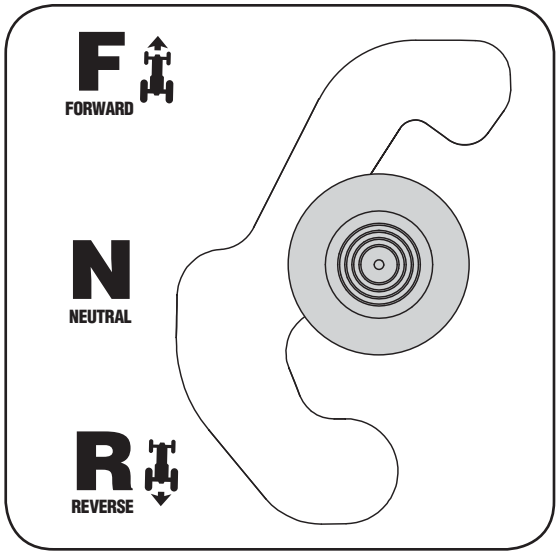


Figure 4-4

Shift Lever
The shift lever is located on the left side of the fender and has three positions, FORWARD, NEUTRAL and REVERSE. The brake pedal must be depressed and the tractor must not be in motion when the moving shift lever. See Figure 4-4.

IMPORTANT: Never force the shift lever. Doing so may result in serious damage to the tractor's transmission.

Speed Control Lever
The speed control lever, located on the left side of the tractor's dash console, allows you to regulate the ground speed of the lawn tractor. To use, depress the clutch-brake pedal and move the lever out of the parking brake notch and forward to increase the tractor's ground speed. When a desired speed has been reached, release the lever into an appropriate notch to maintain that speed.
To slow the tractor's ground speed, depress the clutch-brake pedal and move the speed control lever rearward and release it into a notch.

NOTE: Lawn tractors vary by model and are available with either a 6 or 7 speed control lever.

Parking Brake
To set the parking brake, fully depress the clutch-brake pedal. Move the speed control lever all the way down and into the parking brake position. Release the clutch-brake pedal to allow the parking brake to engage.
To release the parking brake, depress the clutch-brake pedal and move the speed control lever out of the notches to the desired position. Release the speed control lever and the clutch-brake pedal.

NOTE: The parking brake must be set if the operator leaves the seat with the engine running or the engine will automatically shut off.

Clutch-Brake Pedal
The clutch-brake pedal is located on the left side of the lawn tractor, along the running board. Depress the clutch-brake pedal part way down when slowing the tractor by changing speeds (Refer to Speed Control Lever). Depress the pedal all the way down to engage the disc brake and bring the tractor to a complete stop.

NOTE: The pedal must be depressed to start the engine. Refer to Safety Interlock Switches on page 14.

Deck Lift Lever
Found on your tractor's right fender, the deck lift lever is used to change the height of the cutting deck. To use, move the lever to the left, then place in the notch best suited for your application.

PTO (Blade Engage) Lever
Found on the tractor's right fender, the PTO (blade engage) lever is used to engage power to the cutting deck or other (separately available) attachments. To operate, move the lever all the way forward. Moving the lever all the way rearward into the PTO OFF position disengages power to the cutting deck/ attachment.

NOTE: The PTO (blade engage) lever must be in the disengaged (PTO OFF) position when starting the engine.

Safety Interlock Switches
This tractor is equipped with a safety interlock system for the protection of the operator. If the interlock system should ever malfunction, do not operate the tractor. Contact an authorized MTD service dealer.

- The safety interlock system prevents the engine from cranking or starting unless the parking brake is engaged, and the PTO (Blade Engage) lever (or button) is in the disengaged (OFF) position.
- The engine will automatically shut off if the operator leaves the seat before engaging the parking brake.
- The engine will automatically shut off if the operator leaves the tractor's seat with the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the engaged (ON) position, regardless of whether the parking brake is engaged.
- The engine will automatically shut off if the operator engages the PTO with the parking brake ON.

Models without Reverse Caution Mode
- The engine will automatically shut off if the PTO (Blade Engage) lever is moved into the engaged (ON) position with the shift lever in Reverse.

Models with Reverse Caution Mode
- With the ignition key in the **NORMAL MOWING** position, the engine will automatically shut off if the PTO (Blade Engage) lever is moved into the engaged (ON) position with the shift lever in Reverse.

WARNING: Do not operate the tractor if the interlock system is malfunctioning. This system was designed for your safety and protection.

Reverse Caution Mode (If Equipped)

WARNING: Use extreme caution while operating the tractor in the REVERSE CAUTION MODE. Always look down and behind before and while backing. Do not operate the tractor when children or others are around. Stop the tractor immediately if someone enters the area.

The **REVERSE CAUTION MODE** position of the key switch module allows the tractor to be operated in reverse with the blades (PTO) engaged.

IMPORTANT: Mowing in reverse is not recommended.

To use the **REVERSE CAUTION MODE**:

IMPORTANT: The operator MUST be seated in the tractor seat.

1. Start the engine as instructed on page 16 under **Starting The Engine**.
2. Turn the key from the **NORMAL MOWING** (Green) position to the **REVERSE CAUTION MODE** (Yellow) position of the key switch module. See Figure 4-5.
3. Depress the REVERSE PUSH BUTTON (Orange, Triangular Button) at the top, right corner of the key switch module. The red indicator light at the top, left corner of the key switch module will be **ON** while activated. See Figure 4-5.
4. Once activated (indicator light **ON**), the tractor can be driven in reverse with the cutting blades (PTO) engaged.
5. Always look down and behind before and while backing to make sure no children are around.
6. After resuming forward motion, return the key to the **NORMAL MOWING** position.

IMPORTANT: The **REVERSE CAUTION MODE** will remain activated until:

a. The key is placed in either the **NORMAL MOWING** position or **STOP** position.
b. The operator engages the parking brake by fully depressing the clutch-brake pedal and holding it down while moving the speed control lever into the PARK BRAKE position.

Engaging the Parking Brake

To engage the parking brake:

1. Fully depress the clutch-brake pedal and hold it down with your foot.
2. Move the speed control lever all the way down and into the parking brake position.

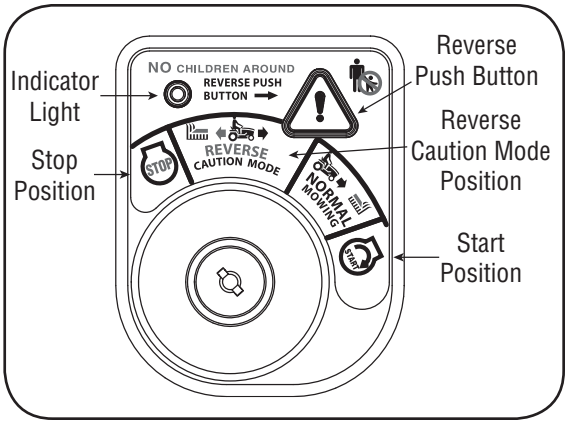


Figure 4-5

3. Release the clutch-brake pedal to allow the parking brake to engage.

To release the parking brake:

1. Depress the clutch-brake pedal and move the speed control lever out of the parking brake position and into a desired speed.

Setting the Cutting Height

1. Select the height position of the cutting deck by placing the deck lift lever in any of the different cutting height notches on the right side of the fender.
2. Adjust the deck wheels, if equipped, so that they are between ¼-inch and ½-inch above the ground when the tractor is on a smooth, flat surface such as a driveway.

WARNING: Keep hands and feet away from the discharge opening of the cutting deck.

NOTE: On models so equipped, the deck wheels are an anti-scalp feature of the deck and are not designed to support the weight of the cutting deck.

Refer to **Leveling the Deck** in the Adjustment section of this manual for more detailed instructions regarding various deck adjustments.

Starting the Engine

WARNING: Do not operate the tractor if the interlock system is malfunctioning. This system was designed for your safety and protection.

NOTE: Refer to the **TRACTOR SET-UP** on page 8 of this manual for Gasoline and Oil fill-up instructions.

1. Insert the tractor key into the ignition switch.
2. Place the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the disengaged (OFF) position.
3. Engage the tractor's parking brake.
4. Activate the choke control.
5. Turn the ignition key clockwise to the START position. After the engine starts, release the key. It will return to the ON position.

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Do not operate the tractor if the interlock system is malfunctioning. This system was designed for your safety and protection.

Use extreme caution while operating the tractor in the REVERSE CAUTION MODE. Always look down and behind before and while backing. Do not operate the tractor when children or others are around. Stop the tractor immediately if someone enters the area.

Keep hands and feet away from the discharge opening of the cutting deck.

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the machine for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting and operating.

Avoid sudden starts, ex-cessive speed and sudden stops.

Do not leave the seat of the tractor without first placing the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the disengaged (OFF) position, depressing the brake pedal and engaging the parking brake. If leaving the tractor unattended, also turn the ignition key off and remove the key.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT hold the key in the START position for longer than ten seconds at a time. Doing so may cause damage to your engine's electric starter.

6. After the engine starts, deactivate the choke control and place the throttle control in the FAST position.

NOTE: Do NOT leave the choke control on while operating the tractor. Doing so will result in a "rich" fuel mixture and cause the engine to run poorly.

Stopping the Engine

WARNING: If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the machine for any damage. Repair the damage before restarting and operating the tractor.

1. If the blades are engaged, place the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the disengaged (OFF) position.
2. Turn the ignition key counterclockwise to the STOP position.
3. Remove the key from the ignition switch to prevent unintended starting.

Driving The Tractor

WARNING: Avoid sudden starts, ex-cessive speed and sudden stops.

WARNING: Do not leave the seat of the tractor without first placing the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the disengaged (OFF) position, depressing the brake pedal and engaging the parking brake. If leaving the tractor unattended, also turn the ignition key off and remove the key.

WARNING: Always look down and behind before and while backing up to avoid a back-over accident.

1. Depress the brake pedal to release the parking brake and let the pedal up.
2. Move the throttle lever into the FAST (rabbit) position.
3. Place the shift lever in either the FORWARD or REVERSE position.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT use the shift lever to change the direction of travel when the tractor is in motion. Always use the brake pedal to bring the tractor to a complete stop before shifting.

4. Release the parking brake by depressing the clutch-brake pedal and positioning the speed control lever in desired position.

WARNING

AVOID SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH

- GO UP AND DOWN SLOPES, NOT ACROSS.
- AVOID SUDDEN TURNS.
- DO NOT OPERATE THE UNIT WHERE IT COULD SLIP OR TIP.
- IF MACHINE STOPS GOING UPHILL, STOP BLADE(S) AND BACK DOWNHILL SLOWLY.
- DO NOT MOW WHEN CHILDREN OR OTHERS ARE AROUND.
- NEVER CARRY CHILDREN, EVEN WITH BLADES OFF.
- LOOK DOWN AND BEHIND BEFORE AND WHILE BACKING.
- KEEP SAFETY DEVICES (GUARDS, SHIELDS, AND SWITCHES) IN PLACE AND WORKING.
- REMOVE OBJECTS THAT COULD BE THROWN BY THE BLADE(S).
- KNOW LOCATION AND FUNCTION OF ALL CONTROLS.
- BE SURE BLADE(S) AND ENGINE ARE STOPPED BEFORE PLACING HANDS OR FEET NEAR BLADE(S).
- BEFORE LEAVING OPERATOR'S POSITION, DISENGAGE BLADE(S), PLACE THE SHIFT LEVER IN NEUTRAL, ENGAGE BRAKE LOCK, SHUT ENGINE OFF AND REMOVE KEY.

READ OPERATOR'S MANUAL

IMPORTANT: First-time operators should use speed positions 1 or 2. Become completely familiar with the tractor's operation and controls before operating the tractor in higher speed positions.

5. Release clutch-brake pedal slowly to put unit into motion.
6. The lawn tractor is brought to a stop by depressing the clutch-brake pedal.

NOTE: When operating the unit initially, there will be little difference between the highest two speeds until after the belts have seated themselves into the pulleys during the break-in period.

WARNING: Before leaving the operator's position for any reason, disengage the blades, place the shift lever in neutral, engage the parking brake, shut engine off and remove the key.

IMPORTANT: When stopping the tractor for any reason while on a grass surface, always:

1. Place the shift lever in neutral,
2. Engage the parking brake,
3. Shut engine off and remove the key. Doing so will minimize the possibility of having your lawn "browned" by hot exhaust from your tractor's running engine.

If unit stalls with speed control in high speed, or if unit will not operate with speed control lever in a low speed position, proceed as follows:

1. Place shift lever in NEUTRAL.
2. Restart engine.
3. Place speed control lever in highest speed position.
4. Release clutch-brake pedal fully.
5. Depress clutch-brake pedal.
6. Place speed control lever in desired position.
7. Place shift lever in either FORWARD or REVERSE, and follow normal operating procedures.

Driving On Slopes

Refer to the SLOPE GAUGE on page 3 to help determine slopes where you may operate the tractor safely.

WARNING: Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). The tractor could overturn and cause serious injury.

- Mow up and down slopes, NEVER across.
- Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
- Watch for holes, ruts, bumps, rocks, or other hidden objects. Uneven terrain could overturn the machine. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
- Avoid turns when driving on a slope. If a turn must be made, turn down the slope. Turning up a slope greatly increases the chance of a roll over.
- Avoid stopping when driving up a slope. If it is necessary to stop while driving up a slope, start up smoothly and carefully to reduce the possibility of flipping the tractor over backward.

Engaging the Blades

Engaging the PTO (Blade Engage) transfers power to the cutting deck or other (separately available) attachments. To engage the blades, proceed as follows:

1. Move the throttle control lever to the FAST (rabbit) position.
2. Grasp the PTO (Blade Engage) lever and pivot it all the way forward into the engaged (ON) position.
3. Keep the throttle lever in the FAST (rabbit) position for the most efficient use of the cutting deck or other (separately available) attachments

IMPORTANT: **Models with Reverse Caution Mode:**
The engine will automatically shut off if the PTO is engaged with the shift lever in position for reverse travel with the ignition key in the NORMAL MOWING position.

Models without Reverse Caution Mode:
The PTO (Blade Engage) lever must be in the disengaged (OFF) position when starting the engine, when traveling in reverse, and if the operator leaves the seat.

Refer to Safety Interlock Switches on page 14.

Using the Deck Lift Lever

To raise the cutting deck, move the deck lift lever to the left, then place it in the notch best suited for your application. Refer to Setting The Cutting Height earlier in this section.

Mowing

WARNING: To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, keep bystanders, helpers, children and pets at least 75 feet from the machine while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters the area.

The following information will be helpful when using the cutting deck with your tractor:

WARNING: Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of materials toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.

- Do not mow at high ground speed, especially if a mulch kit or grass collector is installed.
- For best results it is recommended that the first two laps be cut with the discharge thrown towards the center. After the first two laps, reverse the direction to throw the discharge to the outside for the balance of cutting. This will give a better appearance to the lawn.
- Do not cut the grass too short. Short grass invites weed growth and yellows quickly in dry weather.
- Mowing should always be done with the engine at full throttle.
- Under heavier conditions it may be necessary to go back over the cut area a second time to get a clean cut.
- Do NOT attempt to mow heavy brush and weeds and extremely tall grass. Your tractor is designed to mow lawns, NOT clear brush.
- Keep the blades sharp and replace the blades when worn. Refer to **Cutting Blades** on page 25 of this manual for proper blade sharpening instructions.

Mulching (If Equipped)

Select models come equipped with a mulch kit which incorporates special blades, already standard on the tractor, in a process of recirculating grass clippings repeatedly beneath the cutting deck. The ultra-fine clippings are then forced back into the lawn where they act as a natural fertilizer.
Observe the following points for the best results when mulching:

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). The tractor could overturn and cause serious injury.

Always look down and behind before and while backing up to avoid a back-over accident.

4

Operating Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of materials toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.

NOTE: This Operators Manual covers a range of product specifications for various models. Characteristics and features discussed and/or illustrated in this manual *may not* be applicable to all models. MTD LLC reserves the right to change product specifications, designs and equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.

- Never attempt to mulch if the lawn is damp. Wet grass tends to stick to the underside of the cutting deck preventing proper mulching of the clippings.
- Do NOT attempt to mulch more than 1/3 the total height of the grass or approximately 1-1/2 inches. Doing so will cause the clippings to clump up beneath the deck and not be mulched effectively.
- Maintain a slow ground speed to allow the grass clippings more time to effectively be mulched.
- Always position the throttle control lever in the FAST (rabbit) position and allow it to remain there while mowing. Failing to keep the engine at full throttle places strain on the tractor's engine and does not allow the blades to properly mulch grass.

NOTE: It is not necessary to remove the discharge chute to operate the mower with the mulch kit installed.

To operate the cutting deck without mulching, simply remove the mulch plug by unthreading the plastic wing nut which fastens it to the cutting deck. This will allow the clippings to discharge out the side. See Figure 4-6.

Headlights

- On some models, the lamps are ON whenever the tractor's engine is running. On other models, the lamps are ON whenever the ignition key is moved out of the STOP position.
- On all models, the lamps turn OFF when the ignition key is moved to the STOP position.

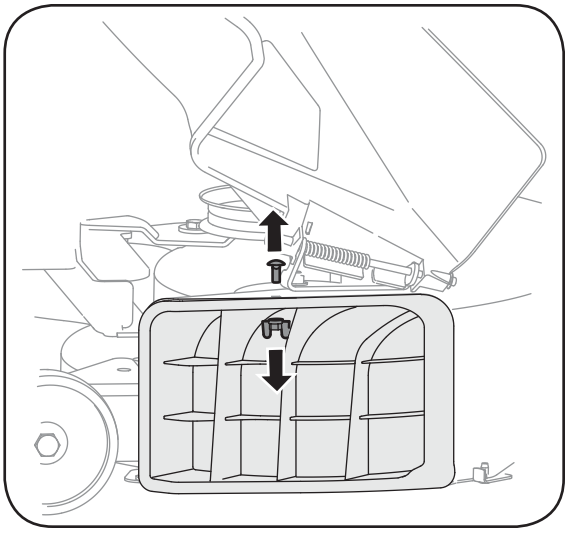


Figure 4-6

WARNING: Never attempt to make any adjustments while the engine is running, except where specified in the operator's manual.

Leveling the Deck

NOTE: Check the tractor's tire pressure before performing any deck leveling adjustments. Refer to Tires on page 24 for information regarding tire pressure.

Front To Rear

The front of the cutting deck is supported by a stabilizer bar that can adjusted to level the deck from front to rear. The front of the deck should be between 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch lower than the rear of the deck. Adjust if necessary as follows:

1. With the tractor parked on a firm, level surface, place the deck lift lever in the top notch (highest position) and rotate the blade nearest the discharge chute so that it is parallel with the tractor.
2. Measure the distance from the front of the blade tip to the ground and the rear of the blade tip to the ground. The first measurement taken should be between 1/4" and 3/8" less than the second measurement. Determine the approximate distance necessary for proper adjustment and proceed, if necessary, to the next step.
3. Locate the jam nut and lock nut on the front side of the stabilizer bracket. See Figure 5-1 or Figure 5-2. After loosening the jam nut:

Tighten the lock nut to raise the front of the deck;

Loosen the lock nut to lower the front of the deck.

4. Retighten the jam nut loosened earlier when proper adjustment is achieved.

Side to Side

If the cutting deck appears to be mowing unevenly, a side to side adjustment can be performed. Adjust if necessary as follows:

1. With the tractor parked on a firm, level surface, place the deck lift lever in the top notch (highest position) and rotate both blades so that they are perpendicular with the tractor.
2. Measure the distance from the outside of the left blade tip to the ground and the distance from the outside of the right blade tip to the ground. Both measurements taken should be equal. If they're not, proceed to the next step.
3. Loosen, but do NOT remove, the hex cap screw on the left deck hanger bracket. See Figure 5-3.
4. Balance the deck by using a wrench to turn the adjustment gear (found immediately behind the hex cap screw just loosened) clockwise/up or counter-clockwise/down. The deck is properly balanced when both blade tip measurements taken earlier are equal.
5. Retighten the hex cap screw on the left deck hanger bracket when proper adjustment is achieved.

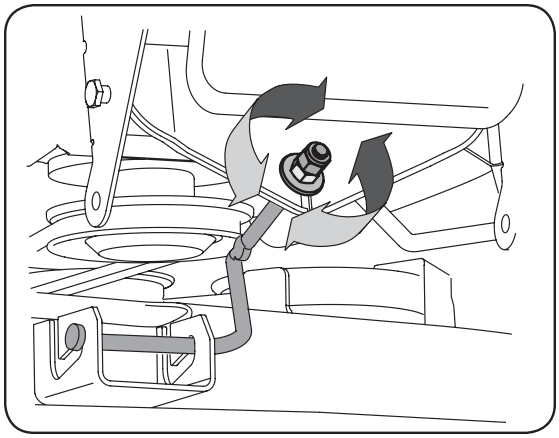


Figure 5-1 (38" & 46" Deck)

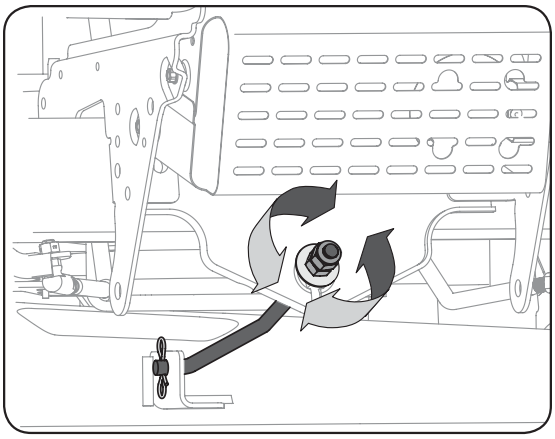


Figure 5-2 (42" Deck)

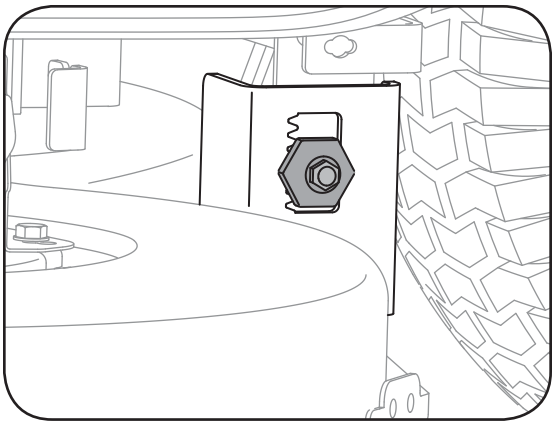


Figure 5-3

Parking Brake Adjustment

WARNING: Never attempt to adjust the brakes while the engine is running. Always disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

If the tractor does not come to a complete stop when the brake pedal is completely depressed, or if the tractor's rear wheels can roll with the parking brake applied, the brake is in need of adjustment. See an authorized service dealer to have your brakes properly adjusted.

5 Adjusting Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Never attempt to make any adjustments while the engine is running, except where specified in the operator's manual.

Never attempt to adjust the brakes while the engine is running. Always disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

Refer to the Set-Up section of this manual for seat adjustment instructions.

6

Maintaining Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Before performing any maintenance or repairs, disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

NOTE: Depending on the engine model found on your tractor, it may be necessary to remove the tractor's side panel in order to replace the oil filter (if so equipped)

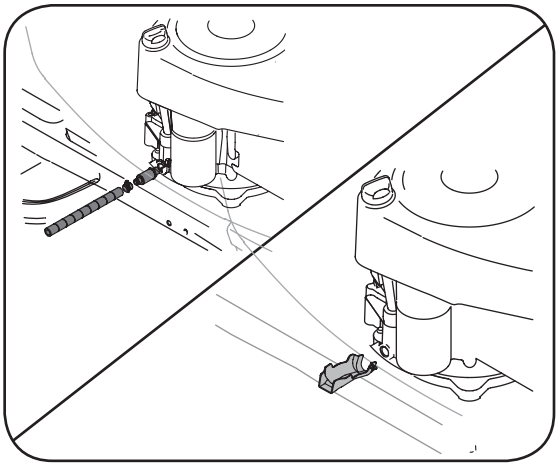


Figure 6-1

WARNING: Before performing any maintenance or repairs, disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

Engine

Refer to the Engine Operator/Owner Manual for engine maintenance instructions.
Check **engine oil level** before each use as instructed in the Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your unit. **Follow the instructions carefully.**

Changing Engine Oil and Filter

NOTE: Depending on the engine model found on your tractor, it may be necessary to remove the tractor's side panel in order to replace the oil filter (if so equipped).

For draining oil from the engine's crankcase of select model tractors, a plastic oil drain sleeve or hose is packed with this Operator's Manual. See Figure 6-1.

1. Change the oil as instructed in the separate Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your unit.
2. Service the oil filter (if so equipped) as instructed in the separate Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your unit.
3. Refill the engine with the proper quantity and weight of new motor oil as instructed in the Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your unit.

Air Cleaner

Service the pre-cleaner, if so equipped, and cartridge/air cleaner element as instructed in the Engine Operator/Owner Manual packed with your unit.

Spark Plug(s)

The spark plug(s) should be cleaned and the gap reset once a season. Spark plug replacement is recommended at the start of each mowing season. Refer to the Engine Operator/Owner Manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.

Lubrication

WARNING: Before lubricating, repairing, or inspecting, always disengage PTO, move shift lever into neutral position, set parking brake, stop engine and remove key to prevent unintended starting.

Engine

Lubricate the engine with motor oil as instructed in the Engine Owner Manual packed with your unit.

Pivot Points & Linkage

Lubricate all the pivot points on the drive system, parking brake and lift linkage at least once a season with light oil.

Rear Wheels

The rear wheels should be removed from the axles once a season. Lubricate the axles and the rims well with an all-purpose grease before re-installing them.

Front Axles

Each end of the tractor's front pivot bar may be equipped with a grease fitting. Lubricate with a grease gun after every 25 hours of tractor operation.

Cleaning the Engine And Deck

Any fuel or oil spilled on the machine should be wiped off promptly. Do NOT allow debris to accumulate around the cooling fins of the engine or on any other part of the machine.

IMPORTANT: The use of a pressure washer to clean your tractor is NOT recommended. It may cause damage to electrical components, spindles, pulleys, bearings or the engine.

A hex plug can be found on your tractor's 42" & 46" deck surface. See Figure 6-2.
This plug can be replaced with a water port to be used as part of a separately-available deck wash system.

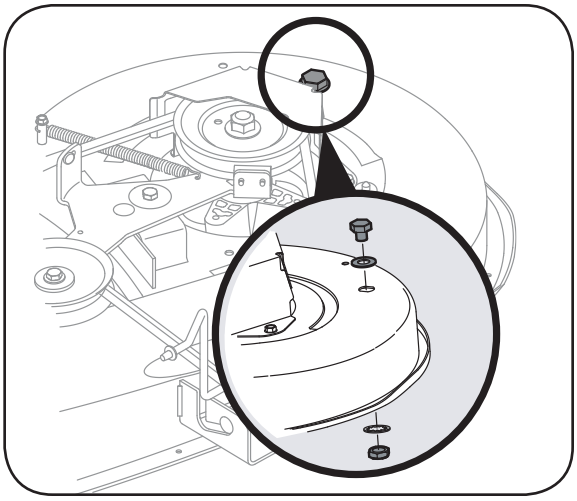


Figure 6-2

NOTE: Refer to page 28 for information regarding this and other separately-available attachments & accessories for your tractor.

Deck Wash System™ (If equipped)

Your tractor's deck may be equipped with a water port on its surface as part of its deck wash system. Use the Deck Wash System™ (sold separately) to rinse grass clippings from the deck's underside and prevent the buildup of corrosive chemicals. Complete the following steps AFTER EACH MOWING:

1. Drive the tractor to a level, clear spot on your lawn, near enough to a water sillcock (spigot) for your garden hose to reach.

IMPORTANT: Make certain the tractor's discharge chute is directed AWAY from your house, garage, parked cars, etc.

2. Disengage the PTO (Blade Engage), move the shift lever into the neutral position, set the parking brake, and stop the engine.
3. Thread the hose coupler (packaged with your tractor's Operator's Manual) onto the end of your garden hose.
4. Attach the hose coupler to the water port on your decks surface. See Figure 6-3.
5. Turn the water on.
6. While sitting in the operator's position on the tractor, re-start the engine and place the throttle lever in the FAST (rabbit) position.
7. Disengage the parking brake.
8. Move the tractor's PTO (Blade Engage) into the ON position.
9. **Remain in the operator's position** with the cutting deck engaged for a minimum of two minutes, allowing the underside of the cutting deck to thoroughly rinse.
10. Move the tractor's PTO (Blade Engage) into the OFF position.
11. Turn the ignition key to the STOP position to turn the tractor's engine off and engage the parking brake.
12. Turn the water off and detach the hose coupler from the water port on your decks surface.
13. Repeat steps 4-11 on the opposite side of the cutting deck.

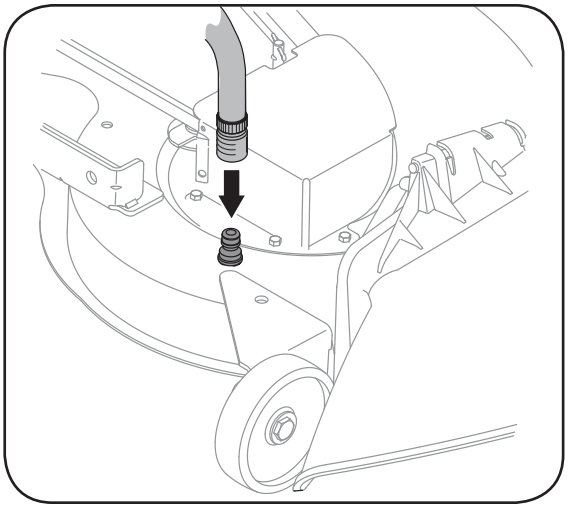


Figure 6-3

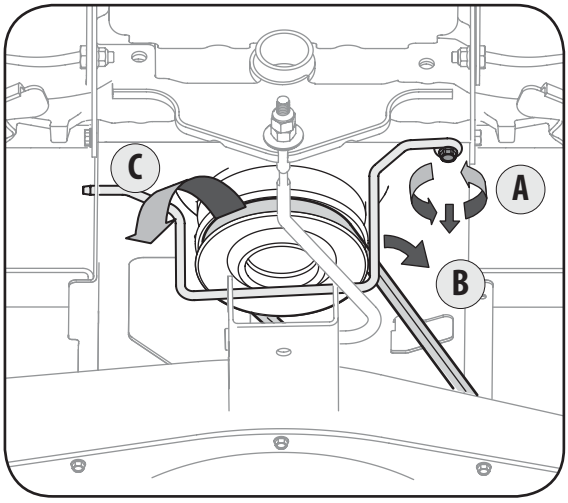


Figure 6-4

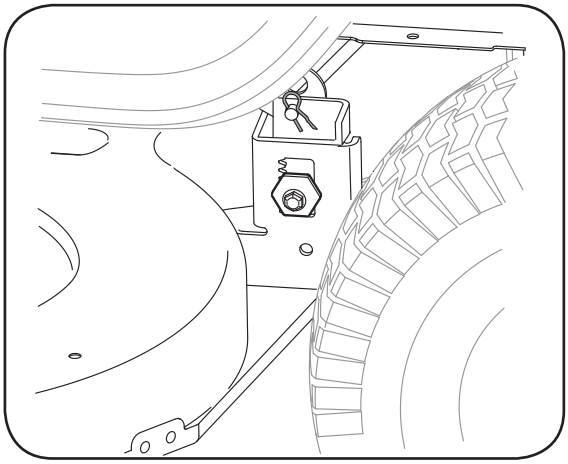


Figure 6-5

Cutting Deck Removal

NOTE: Models equipped with a 38-inch deck have one deck idler pulley. Models equipped with a 42-inch or 46-inch deck have two deck idler pulleys.

To remove the cutting deck, proceed as follows:

1. Place the PTO (Blade Engage) lever in the disengaged (OFF) position and engage the parking brake.
2. Lower the deck by moving the deck lift lever into the bottom notch on the right fender.
3. Remove the belt-keeper rod (B), from around the tractor's engine pulley, by removing the self-tapping screw (A) that secures it. See Figure 6-4.

NOTE: Make a mental note what hole the other end of the belt-keeper rod is inserted in for reinstallation purposes.

4. Remove the belt (C) from around the tractor's engine pulley.
5. Looking at the cutting deck from the left side of the tractor, locate the hair pin clip that secures the deck support rod on the rear left side of the deck. See Figure 6-5. Remove the hair pin clip that secures the deck support rod, and carefully remove the deck support from the deck lift arm.

NOTE: Models equipped with a 38-inch deck have one deck idler pulley. Models equipped with a 42-inch or 46-inch deck have two deck idler pulleys.

6

Maintaining Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the cutting blade(s) for sharpening or replacement. Protect your hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade.

Periodically inspect the blade spindles for cracks or damage, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace immediately if damaged.

6. Repeat the above steps on the tractor's right side.

NOTE: The deck support rod on the right side of the tractor is secured using hair pin clip as opposed to a cotter pin, which you might had noticed was used on the left side. This is normal and should be reinstalled in the same manner as removed.

7. Move the deck lift lever into the top notch on the right fender to raise the deck lift arms up and out of the way.
8. **On 38" & 46" Decks**: Gently slide the cutting deck toward the front of the tractor allowing the hooks on the deck to release themselves from the deck stabilizer rod.
   On 42" Decks: Remove the bow-tie cotter pin securing the deck stabilizer rod to the deck. Slide the deck lift rod from the mounting weldment on the deck as seen in Figure 6-6.

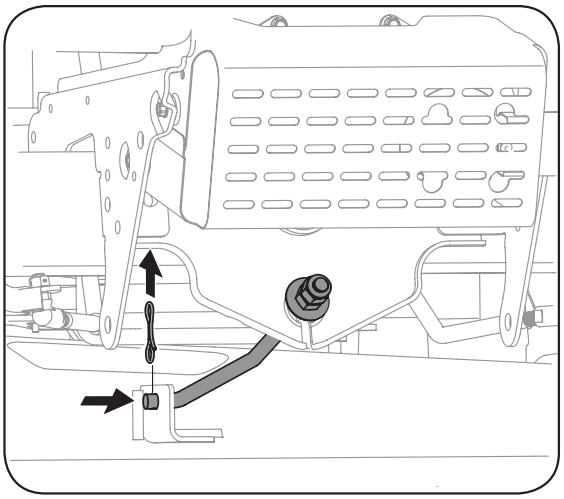


Figure 6-6

9. Carefully remove the PTO cable from the rear of the cutting deck by removing the hair pin clip which secures it. Remove the spring from the deck idler bracket. See Figure 6-7.
10. Gently slide the cutting deck (from the left side) out from underneath the tractor.

Tires

WARNING: Never exceed the maximum inflation pressure shown on the sidewall of tire.

The recommended operating tire pressure is:

- Approximately 10 psi for the rear tires
- Approximately 14 psi for the front tires

IMPORTANT: Refer to the tire sidewall for exact tire manufacturer's recommended or maximum psi. Do not overinflate. Uneven tire pressure could cause the cutting deck to mow unevenly.

Battery

The battery is sealed and is maintenance-free. Acid levels cannot be checked.

- Always keep the battery cables and terminals clean and free of corrosive build-up.

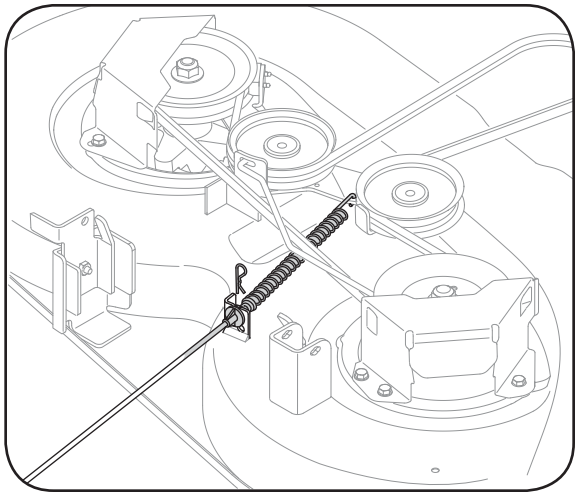


Figure 6-7

- After cleaning the battery and terminals, apply a light coat of petroleum jelly or grease to both terminals.
- Always keep the rubber boot positioned over the positive terminal to prevent shorting.

IMPORTANT: If removing the battery for any reason, disconnect the NEGATIVE (Black) wire from it's terminal first, followed by the POSITIVE (Red) wire. When re-installing the battery, always connect the POSITIVE (Red) wire its terminal first, followed by the NEGATIVE (Black) wire. Be certain that the wires are connected to the correct terminals; reversing them could change the polarity and result in damage to your engine's alternating system.

Charging

IMPORTANT: When charging your tractor's battery, use only a charger designed for 12V lead-acid batteries. Read your battery charger's Owner's Manual prior to charging your tractor's battery. Always follow its instructions and heed its warnings.

If your tractor has not been put into use for an extended period of time, charge the battery as follows:

- Set your battery charger to deliver a maximum of 10 amperes. If your battery charger is automatic, charge the battery until the charger indicates that charging is complete.

NOTE: If the charger is not automatic, charge for no fewer than eight hours.

WARNING: Batteries give off an explosive gas while charging. Charge battery in a well ventilated area and keep away from an open flame or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliances.

Jump Starting

WARNING: When removing or installing the battery, follow these instructions to prevent the screwdriver from shorting against the frame.

IMPORTANT: Never jump your tractor's dead battery with the battery of a running vehicle.

1. Connect end of one jumper cable to the positive terminal of the good battery, then the other end to the positive terminal of the dead battery.
2. Connect the other jumper cable to the negative terminal of the good battery, then to the **frame of the unit with the dead battery.**
3. Start the tractor as instructed in the operation section of this manual.

WARNING: Failure to use this procedure could cause sparking, and the gas in either battery could explode.

Cleaning

Clean the battery by removing it from the tractor and washing with a baking soda and water solution. If necessary, scrape the battery terminals with a wire brush to remove deposits. Coat terminals and exposed wiring with grease or petroleum jelly to prevent corrosion.

Battery Failures

Some common causes for battery failure are:

- incorrect initial activation
- undercharging
- overcharging
- corroded connections
- freezing

These failures are NOT covered by your tractor's warranty.

Fuse

One 20 AMP fuse is installed in your tractor's wiring harness to protect the tractor's electrical system from damage caused by excessive amperage.

If the electrical system does not function, or your tractor's engine will not crank, first check to be certain that the fuse has not blown. It can be found under the hood mounted behind the dash panel on the right side.

WARNING: Always use a fuse with the same amperage capacity for replacement.

Cutting Blades

WARNING: Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the cutting blade(s) for sharpening or replacement. Protect your hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade.

WARNING: Periodically inspect the blade spindles for cracks or damage, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace immediately if damaged.

The blades may be removed as follows.

1. Remove the deck from beneath the tractor, (refer to Cutting Deck Removal on page 21) then gently flip the deck over to expose its underside.

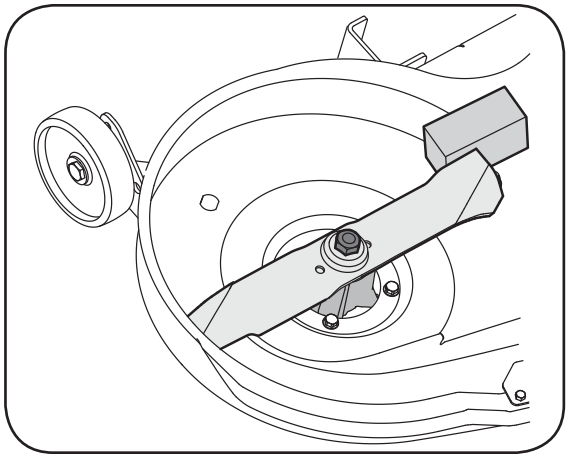


Figure 6-8

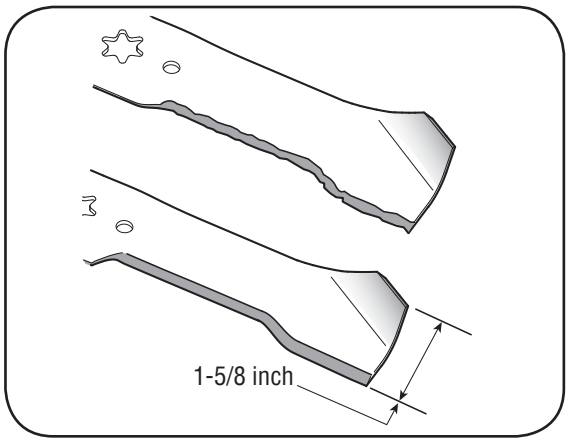


Figure 6-9

2. Place a block of wood between the center deck housing baffle and the cutting blade to act as a stabilizer. See Figure 6-8.
3. Use a 15/16" wrench to remove the hex flange nut that secures the blade to the spindle assembly. See Figure 6-8.
4. To properly sharpen the cutting blades, remove equal amounts of metal from both ends of the blades along the cutting edges, parallel to the trailing edge, at a 25° to 30° angle.

IMPORTANT: If the cutting edge of the blade has already been sharpened, or if any metal separation is present, replace the blades with new ones. See Figure 6-9.

- It is important that each cutting blade edge be ground equally to maintain proper blade balance.
- A poorly balanced blade will cause excessive vibration and may cause damage to the tractor and result in personal injury. The blade can be tested by balancing it on a round shaft screwdriver. Grind metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.
- When replacing the blade, be sure to install the blade with the side of the blade marked "Bottom" (or with a part number stamped in it) facing the ground when the mower is in the operating position.

WARNING

Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the belt.

Avoid the possibility of a pinching injury. Do not place your fingers on the idler spring or between the belt and a pulley while removing the belt.

6

Maintaining Your Lawn Tractor

WARNING

Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the cutting blade(s) for sharpening or replacement. Protect your hands by using heavy gloves or a rag to grasp the cutting blade.

Periodically inspect the blade spindles for cracks or damage, especially if you strike a foreign object. Replace immediately if damaged.

IMPORTANT: Use a torque wrench to tighten the blade spindle hex flange nut to between 70 foot-pounds and 90 foot-pounds.

Changing the Deck Belt

WARNING: Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the belt.

All belt on your tractor are subject to wear and should be replaced if any signs of wear are present.

IMPORTANT: The V-belt found on your tractor are specially designed to engage and disengage safely. A substitute (non-OEM) V-belt can be dangerous by not disengaging completely. For a proper working machine, use factory approved belts.

To change or replace the deck belt on your tractor, proceed as follows:

1. Lower the deck by moving the deck lift lever into the bottom notch on the right fender.
2. Remove the belt guards by removing the self-tapping screws that fasten them to the deck.
3. Remove the belt keeper rod from around the engine pulley.
4. On the 42-inch deck only, loosen but do not remove, the idler pulley nuts. This will enable the belt to be easily removed from the idler pulleys. See Fig. 6-10.

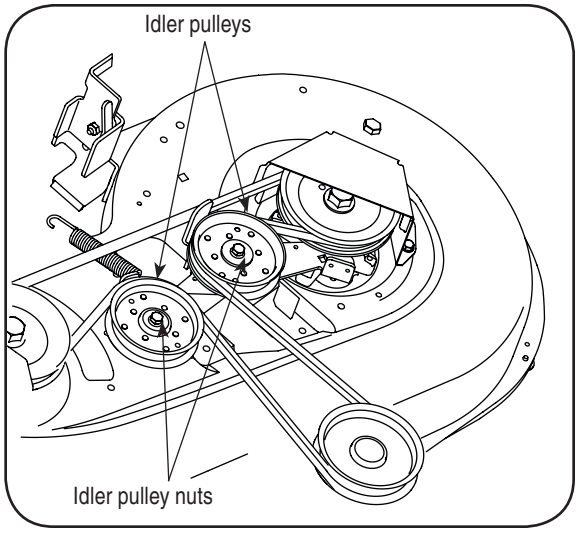


Figure 6-10

IMPORTANT: Carefully allow the ratchet to pivot rearward before removing it from the square hole.

WARNING: Avoid the possibility of a pinching injury. Do not place your fingers on the idler spring or between the belt and a pulley while removing the belt.

5. Remove the deck belt from around all pulleys, including the deck idler pulley.
6. Route the new belt as shown in and Fig. 6-11, 6-12 or 6-13.
7. Remount the belt guards removed earlier.

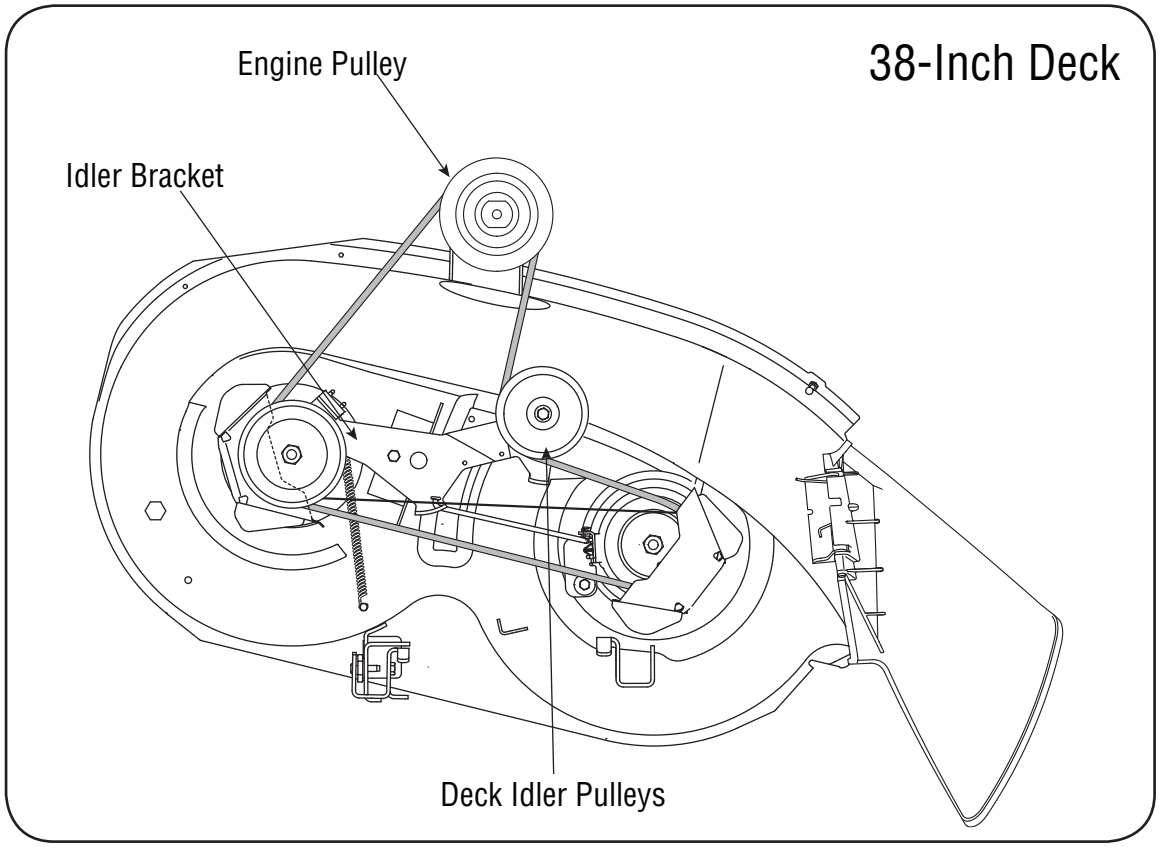


Figure 6-11

Changing the Lower Deck Belt (46" Decks)

NOTE: Several components must be removed in order to change the tractor's lower deck belt. See an authorized Service Dealer to have your lower drive belt replaced or phone Customer Support as instructed on page 2 for information on ordering a Service Manual.

Changing the Transmission Drive Belt

NOTE: Several components must be removed and special tools (i.e. air/impact wrench) in order to change the tractor's drive belt. See an authorized ervice Dealer to have your drive belt replaced or phone Customer Support as instructed on page 2 for information on ordering a Service Manual.

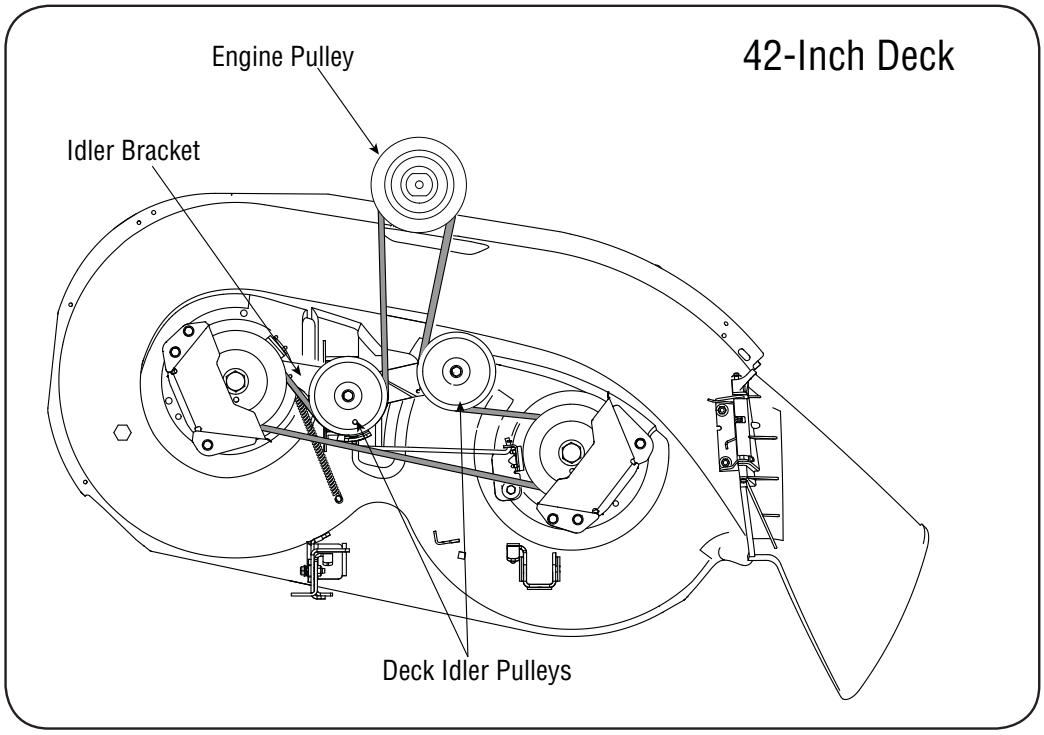


Figure 6-12

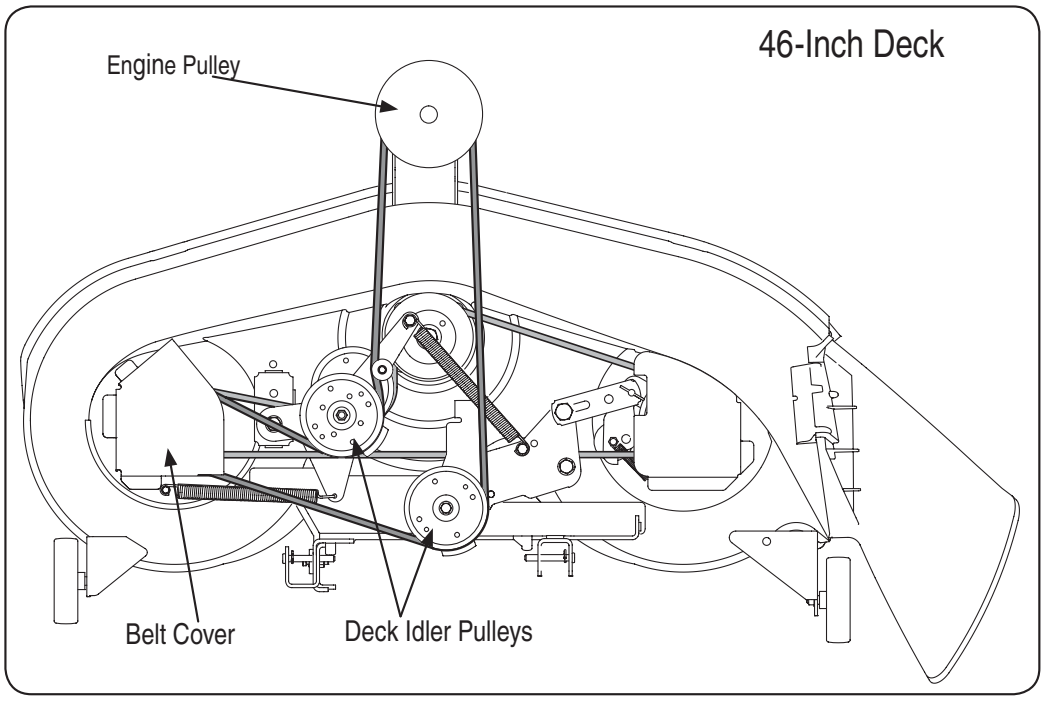


Figure 6-13

WARNING

Be sure to shut the engine off, remove ignition key, disconnect the spark plug wire(s) and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting before removing the belt.

Avoid the possibility of a pinching injury. Do not place your fingers on the idler spring or between the belt and a pulley while removing the belt.

6 Maintaining Your Tractor

IMPORTANT

IMPORTANT: Failure to perform the scheduled maintenance may void your warranty.

Maintenance Schedule

	Before Each Use	Every 10 Hours	Every 25 Hours	Every 50 Hours	Every 100 Hours	Prior to Storing
Clean Hood Louvers		✓				✓
Check Engine Oil Level	✓	✓				
Check Air Filter for Dirty, Loose or Damaged Parts	✓					
Clean and Re-oil Air Filter's Foam Precleaner			✓			
Replace Air Filter Element					✓	
Change Engine Oil & Replace Oil Filter				✓		
Clean Battery Terminals		✓				✓
Lube Front Axles and Rims			✓			✓
Clean Engine Cooling Fins			✓			✓
Lube Front Deck Wheels *(if equipped)*			✓			✓
Lube Deck Spindles			✓			✓
Lube Pedal Pivot Points		✓				✓
Check Spark Plug Condition & Gap					✓	✓
Replace Fuel Filter					✓	

IMPORTANT: Check air cleaner components more often if operating in extremely dirty, dusty conditions, and service as necessary.

Clean and lubricate the tractor as instructed in **Section 6: MAINTAINING YOUR LAWN TRACTOR** on page 19 of this manual before storing for an extended period.

WARNING: Drain fuel only into an approved container outdoors, away from an open flame. Allow engine to cool. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition prior to draining fuel.

Follow the instructions in the **Service, Storage & Specifications** section of the Engine Operator/Owner Manual for proper engine care prior to storing your tractor.

WARNING: Never store the machine or fuel container indoors where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light such as on water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliance.

Attachments & Accessories

The following attachments and accessories are compatible for Model Series 700 Lawn Tractors. See the retailer from which you purchased your tractor or an authorized Service Dealer for information regarding price and availability.

NOTE: Model Series 700 Lawn Tractors are NOT designed for use with any type of ground-engaging attachments (e.g. tiller or plow). Use of this type of equipment WILL void the tractor's warranty.

MODEL	DESCRIPTION
OEM-190-032	42-inch Two-stage Snow Thrower
OEM-190-116	38/42-inch Deck Mulch Kit
OEM-190-180	Twin Bagger Grass Collector (for 38/42-inch Decks)
OEM-190-182	Twin Bagger Grass Collector (for 46-inch Decks)
OEM-190-183	Deck Wheel Kit
OEM-190-215	Wheel Weight
OEM-190-607*	Deluxe Tractor Sunshade
OEM-190-658	Tire Chains, 20 x 8 Tires
OEM-190-916	Tire Chains, 20 x 10 Tires
OEM-190-672	Grille Guard (mounts on front of tractor)
OEM-190-833	46-inch Front Dozer Blade
OEM-190-679	Bumper
OEM-19A-102	Steel Cart, 16 cu. ft.
OEM-19A-103	Lawn Sweeper
OEM-19A-104	Sprayer, 25 Gallon
OEM-19A-105	Broadcast Spreader
OEM-19A-106	Poly Cart, 10 cu. ft.
OEM-19A-107	Tow-Behind Dethatcher, 42"
490-900-0025	Deck Wash Kit (42" Deck Only)

* Not compatible with tractors equipped with a Grass Collector

7

Off-Season Storage/ Attachments

WARNING

Drain fuel only into an approved container outdoors, away from an open flame. Allow engine to cool. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other sources of ignition prior to draining fuel.

Never store the machine or fuel container indoors where there is an open flame, spark or pilot light such as on water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliance.

8

Trouble Shooting

For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed here, contact an authorized service dealer.

Problem	Cause	Remedy
Engine fails to start	1. PTO engaged. 2. Spark plug wire(s) disconnected. 3. Fuel tank empty or stale fuel. 4. Choke not activated. 5. Faulty spark plug. 6. Blocked fuel line. 7. Engine flooded. 8. Parking brake not engaged. 9. Throttle control lever not in correct starting position.	1. Place PTO knob (or lever) in disengaged (OFF) position. 2. Connect wire(s) to spark plug(s). 3. Fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline. 4. Pull out the CHOKE control (if so equipped) or place the throttle control in CHOKE position. 5. Clean, adjust gap, or replace. 6. Clean fuel line or replace fuel filter, if so equipped. 7. Crank engine with throttle in FAST position. 8. Engage parking brake. 9. Place throttle lever to FAST position.
Engine runs erratic	1. Unit running with CHOKE applied. 2. Spark plug wire(s) loose. 3. Blocked fuel line or stale fuel. 4. Vent in gas cap plugged. 5. Water or dirt in fuel system. 6. Dirty air cleaner.	1. Push CHOKE control (if so equipped) in, or move the throttle control out of the CHOKE position. 2. Connect and tighten spark plug wire(s). 3. Clean fuel line; fill tank with clean, fresh (less than 30 days old) gasoline. Replace fuel filter, if so equipped. 4. Clear vent or replace if damaged. 5. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel. 6. Replace air cleaner cartridge/element or clean pre-cleaner, if so equipped.
Engine overheats	1. Engine oil level low. 2. Air flow restricted.	1. Fill crankcase with proper oil. 2. Clean grass clippings and debris from around the engine's cooling fins and blower housing.
Engine hesitates at high RPM	1. Spark plug(s) gap too close.	1. Remove spark plug(s) and reset the gap.
Idles poorly	1. Spark plug(s) fouled, faulty or gap too wide. 2. Dirty air cleaner.	1. Replace spark plug(s). Set plug(s) gap. 2. Replace air cleaner cartridge/element or clean pre-cleaner, if so equipped.
Excessive Vibration	1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced. 2. Damaged or bent cutting blade.	1. Tighten blade and spindle. Balance blade. 2. Replace blade.
Mower will not mulch grass (If Equipped)	1. Engine speed too low. 2. Wet grass. 3. Excessively high grass. 4. Dull blade.	1. Place throttle control in FAST (rabbit) position. 2. Do not mow when grass is wet; wait until later to cut. 3. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height or make a narrower cutting path. 4. Sharpen or replace blade.
Uneven cut	1. Deck not balanced properly. 2. Dull blade. 3. Uneven tire pressure.	1. Perform side-to-side deck adjustment. 2. Sharpen or replace blade. 3. Check tire pressure in all four tires.

THREE YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

The limited warranty set forth below is given by MTD Products Limited with respect to new merchandise purchased and used in Canada and/or its territories and possessions (either entity respectively, "MTD").

MTD warrants this product (excluding its normal wear parts as described below) against defects in material and workmanship for a period of three (3) years commencing on the date of original purchase and will, at its option, repair or replace, free of charge, any part found to be defective in materials or workmanship. This limited warranty shall only apply if this product has been operated and maintained in accordance with the Operator's Manual furnished with the product, and has not been subject to misuse, abuse, commercial use, neglect, accident, improper maintenance, alteration, vandalism, theft, fire, water, or damage because of other peril or natural disaster. Damage resulting from the installation or use of any part, accessory or attachment not approved by MTD for use with the product(s) covered by this manual will void your warranty as to any resulting damage.

Normal wear parts are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of purchase. Normal wear parts include, but are not limited to items such as: batteries, belts, blades, blade adapters, grass bags, rider deck wheels, seats, snow thrower skid shoes, friction wheels, shave plates, auger spiral rubber, tires, engine oil, air filters and spark plugs.

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICE: Warranty service is available, WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE, through your local authorized service dealer. To locate the dealer in your area; contact MTD Products Limited, Kitchener, ON N2G 4J1, or call 1-800-668-1238 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdcanada.com.

This limited warranty does not provide coverage in the following cases:

a. The engine or component parts thereof. These items may carry a separate manufacturer's warranty. Refer to applicable manufacturer's warranty for terms and conditions. The Powermore engine is not excluded under this agreement.

b. Log splitter pumps, valves, and cylinders have a separate one-year warranty.

c. Routine maintenance items such as lubricants, filters, blade sharpening, tune-ups, brake adjustments, clutch adjustments, deck adjustments, and normal deterioration of the exterior finish due to use or exposure.

d. Service completed by someone other than an authorized service dealer.

e. MTD does not extend any warranty for products sold or exported outside of Canada, including possessions and territories.

f. Replacement parts that are not genuine MTD parts.

g. Transportation charges and service calls.

h. If Products are used commercially. (MTD may separately offer Limited Commercial Warranties on certain select products. Ask your dealer or retailer for details or contact MTD Service for more information.)

No implied warranty, including any implied warranty of merchantability of fitness for a particular purpose, applies after the applicable period of express written warranty above as to the parts as identified. No other express warranty, whether written or oral, except as mentioned above, given by any person or entity, including a dealer or retailer, with respect to any product, shall bind MTD. During the period of the warranty, the exclusive remedy is repair or replacement of the product as set forth above.

The provisions as set forth in this warranty provide the sole and exclusive remedy arising from the sale. MTD shall not be liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage including, without limitation, expenses incurred for substitute or replacement lawn care services or for rental expenses to temporarily replace a warranted product.

Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusions or limitations may not apply to you.

In no event shall recovery of any kind be greater than the amount of the purchase price of the product sold. **Alteration of safety features of the product shall void this warranty**. You assume the risk and liability for loss, damage, or injury to you and your property and/or to others and their property arising out of the misuse or inability to use the product.

This limited warranty shall not extend to anyone other than the original purchaser or to the person for whom it was purchased as a gift.

HOW LOCAL LAWS RELATE TO THIS WARRANTY: This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that vary in different jurisdictions.

IMPORTANT: Owner must present Original Proof of Purchase to obtain warranty coverage.

MTD Products Ltd., P. O. BOX 1386, KITCHENER, ON N2G 4J1; Phone: 1-800-668-1238

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Warranty

For equipment purchased in Canada only.

Failure to comply with suggested maintenance and lubrication specifications will void warranty.

9

Warranty

For equipment purchased in United States only.

Failure to comply with suggested maintenance and lubrication specifications will void warranty.

CONSUMER'S WARRANTY
COLUMBIA OUTDOOR
THREE YEARS- 120 Hrs. LIMITED WARRANTY

For three (3) years-120 hrs. whichever come first, from the date of original purchase of COLUMBIA products, COLUMBIA will either repair or replace, at its option, free of charge, F.O.B. factory or authorized service firm, any part found to be defective in material and workmanship. All transportation charges on parts submitted for replacement under this warranty must be paid by the purchaser unless return is requested by COLUMBIA.

This warranty DOES NOT apply to any part which has become inoperative through misuse, excessive use, accident, neglect, improper maintenance or alterations by unauthorized persons.

This limited warranty does not extend to the replacement of parts which are not defective, but where regular usage has exhausted the life of the part.

TRACTOR ATTACHMENT WARRANTY

Mower decks included with, or sold separately, as an attachment for COLUMBIA garden tractors will be warranted according to the above terms of the COLUMBIA THREE (3) YEARS - 120 hrs. limited consumer warranty.

ALL OTHER ATTACHMENTS will be sold under the same conditions as above except the warranty will be ONE YEAR FROM DATE OF ORIGINAL PURCHASE.

ENGINES, ELECTRIC START KITS, HYDROGEAR, PEERLESS TRANSMISSIONS AND PEERLESS TRANSAXLES ARE WARRANTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE MANUFACTURER. ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THESE COMPONENTS MUST BE HANDLED THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE MANUFACTURERS SERVICE DEALERS.

Belts, light bulbs, clutch parts (friction wheels), grass bags, tires, seats, rider deck wheels and cutting blades are covered by a 60 day limited warranty.

Batteries are warranted against defect for 90 days at 100% of their value and 50% of their value for the period between the 91st day and the 120th day.

Fuses, shear bolts and blade adapters are considered consumable items and as such are not warranted.

Note: Regular maintenance replacement parts and related inspections and adjustments are excluded from coverage when made as part of normal maintenance service.

EXTERIOR FINISH

NORMAL DETERIORATION OF THE EXTERIOR FINISH DUE TO USE OR EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENT, CORROSIVE PRODUCTS ETC… IS NOT WARRANTED. LABELS ARE COVERED FOR 1 YEAR FROM THE ORIGINAL DATE OF PURCHASE.

PERSONAL USE

THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS CONSTITUTE COLUMBIA'S ENTIRE WARRANTY WITH RESPECT TO ANY PRODUCT PURCHASED AND USED FOR PERSONAL, FAMILY, HOUSEHOLD/RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, AS DISTINGUISHED FROM COMMERCIAL USAGE.

COMMERCIAL USE

ALL APPLICATIONS OTHER THAN PERSONAL USE AS OUTLINED ABOVE, ARE CONSIDERED COMMERCIAL USAGE.

COLUMBIA products purchased by a company or used for commercial purposes are not covered by any warranty.

WARRANTY SERVICE CAN ONLY BE PERFORMED BY AN AUTHORIZED COLUMBIA SERVICE DEALER. ANY NON-ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PART USED ON OR IN A PRODUCT UNDER WARRANTY WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THAT WARRANTY COVERAGE, AS WILL BE ANY RELATED DAMAGED COMPONENTS RESULTING FROM THE INSTALLATION OF A NON-COLUMBIA REPLACEMENT PART.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019; Phone: 1-800-800-7310, 1-330-220-4683

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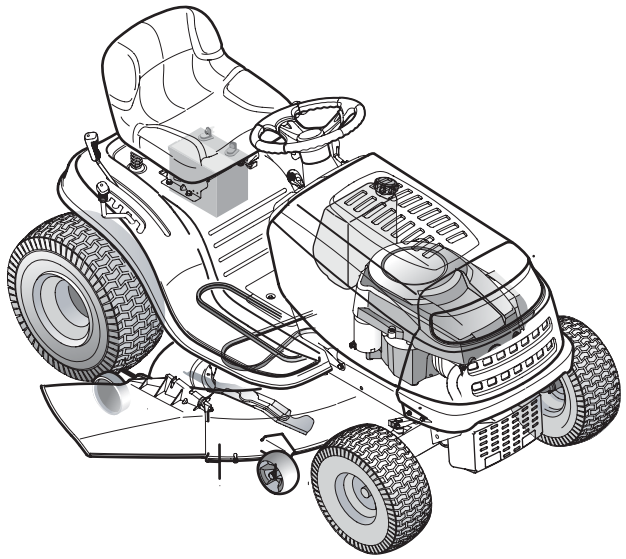
MTD GENUINE FACTORY PARTS



Shift-On-The-Go® Lawn Tractor	
Drive Belt (Mowing Deck) 38” Deck	754-04062
Drive Belt (Mowing Deck) 42” Deck	754-04060B
Upper Drive Belt (Mowing Deck) 46” Deck	754-04142
Lower Drive Belt (Mowing Deck) 46” Deck	754-0349
Deck Blades (38” Deck - two each)	742-0610A
Deck Blade (42” Deck)	742-0616A
Deck Blade (46” Deck) Center Blade (one ea.)	742-0612A
Deck Blade (46” Deck) Outer Blade (two ea.)	742-0611A
Deck Spindle (38” Deck)	618-04474
Deck Spindle (42” Deck)	618-04456
Deck Spindle (46” Deck) Double Pulley (one ea.)	618-04134B
Deck Spindle (46” Deck) (two each)	618-0240A
Deck Wheels	734-0973
Battery	725-1707D
Tire (Front) 15 x 6 x 6 Square Shoulder	734-1731
Tire (Rear) 20 x 8 x 8 Square Shoulder	734-1730
Hub Cap	731-0484A
Fuel Tank Cap	951-3111
Throttle/Choke Control Cable (Single Cylinder Engines)	746-04364
Choke Control Cable (Twin Cylinder Engines)	746-1085A
Throttle Control Cable (Twin Cylinder Engines)	746-04365
Discharge Chute Assembly	931-1032B

WARNING: If a safety feature is not functioning properly, do not use the tractor. Contact your authorized service dealer.

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Replacement Parts

For parts and/or accessories refer to customer support on page 2.

Adressez-vous au «Service après-vente» à la page 2 pour ce qui concerne les pièces et/ou accessoires.

CALIFORNIA EMISSION CONTROL WARRANTY STATEMENT
YOUR WARRANTY RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

The California Air Resources Board and MTD Consumer Group Inc are pleased to explain the evaporative emission control system warranty on your 2008 lawn mower. In California, new lawn mowers must be designed, built and equipped to meet the State's stringent anti-smog standards. MTD Consumer Group Inc must warrant the EECS on your lawn mower for the period of time listed below provided there has been no abuse, neglect or improper maintenance of your lawn mower.

Your EECS may include parts such as the carburetor, fuel-injection system, the ignition system, catalytic converter, fuel tanks, fuel lines, fuel caps, valves, canisters, filters, vapor hoses, clamps, connectors, and other associated emission-related components.

Where a warrantable condition exists, MTD Consumer Group Inc will repair your lawn mower at no cost to you including diagnosis, parts and labor.

MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY COVERAGE:

This evaporative emission control system is warranted for two years. If any evaporative emission-related part on your equipment is defective, the part will be repaired or replaced by MTD Consumer Group Inc.

OWNER'S WARRANTY RESPONSIBILITIES:

As the lawn mower owner, you are responsible for performance of the required maintenance listed in your owner's manual. MTD Consumer Group Inc recommends that you retain all receipts covering maintenance on your lawn mower, but MTD Consumer Group Inc cannot deny warranty solely for the lack of receipts.

As the lawn mower owner, you should however be aware that MTD Consumer Group Inc may deny you warranty coverage if your lawn mower or a part has failed due to abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance or unapproved modifications.

You are responsible for presenting your lawn mower to MTD Consumer Group Inc's distribution center or service center as soon as the problem exists. The warranty repairs should be completed in a reasonable amount of time, not to exceed 30 days. If you have a question regarding your warranty coverage, you should contact the MTD Consumer Group Inc Service Department.

In the U.S.A.: MTD LLC at P.O. Box 361131, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019, or call 1-800-800-7310 or 1-330-220-4683 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdproducts.com.

In Canada: MTD Products Limited, Kitchener, ON N2G 4J1, or call 1-800-668-1238 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdcanada.com.

GENERAL EMISSIONS WARRANTY COVERAGE:

MTD Consumer Group Inc warrants to the ultimate purchaser and each subsequent purchaser that the lawn mower is: Designed, built and equipped so as to conform with all applicable regulations; and free from defects in materials and workmanship that cause the failure of a warranted part to be identical in all material respects to that part as described in MTD Consumer Group Inc's application for certification.

The warranty period begins on the date the lawn mower is delivered to an ultimate purchaser or first placed into service. The warranty period is two years.

Subject to certain conditions and exclusions as stated below, the warranty on emission-related parts is as follows:

1. Any warranted part that is not scheduled for replacement as required maintenance in the written instructions supplied, is warranted for the warranty period stated above. If the part fails during the period of warranty coverage, the part will be repaired or replaced by MTD Consumer Group Inc according to subsection (4) below. Any such part repaired or replaced under warranty will be warranted for the remainder of the period.
2. Any warranted part that is scheduled only for regular inspection in the written instructions supplied is warranted for the warranty period stated above. Any such part repaired or replaced under warranty will be warranted for the remaining warranty period.
3. Any warranted part that is scheduled for replacement as required maintenance in the written instructions supplied is warranted for the period of time before the first scheduled replacement date for that part. If the part fails before the first scheduled replacement, the part will be repaired or replaced by MTD Consumer Group Inc according to subsection (4) below. Any such part repaired or replaced under warranty will be warranted for the remainder of the period prior to the first scheduled replacement point for the part.
4. Repair or replacement of any warranted part under the warranty provisions herein must be performed at a warranty station at no charge to the owner.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions herein, warranty services or repairs will be provided at all of our distribution centers that are franchised to service the subject engines or equipment.
6. The lawn mower owner will not be charged for diagnostic labor that is directly associated with diagnosis of a defective, emission-related warranted part, provided that such diagnostic work is performed at a warranty station.
7. MTD Consumer Group Inc is liable for damages to other engine or equipment components proximately caused by a failure under warranty of any warranted part.
8. Throughout the lawn mower warranty period stated above, MTD Consumer Group Inc will maintain a supply of warranted parts sufficient to meet the expected demand for such parts.
9. Any replacement part may be used in the performance of any warranty maintenance or repairs and must be provided without charge to the owner. Such use will not reduce the warranty obligations of MTD Consumer Group Inc.
10. Add-on or modified parts that are not exempted by the Air Resources Board may not be used. The use of any non-exempted add-on or modified parts by the ultimate purchaser will be grounds for disallowing a warranty claims. MTD Consumer Group Inc will not be liable to warrant failures of warranted parts caused by the use of a non-exempted add-on or modified part.

WARRANTED PARTS:

The repair or replacement of any warranted part otherwise eligible for warranty coverage may be excluded from such warranty coverage if MTD Consumer Group Inc demonstrates that the lawn mower has been abused, neglected, or improperly maintained, and that such abuse, neglect, or improper maintenance was the direct cause of the need for repair or replacement of the part. That notwithstanding, any adjustment of a component that has a factory installed, and properly operating, adjustment limiting device is still eligible for warranty coverage. The following emission warranty parts are covered:

(1) Fuel Metering System

- Cold start enrichment system (soft choke)
- Carburetor and internal parts
- Fuel pump
- Fuel tank

(2) Air Induction System

- Air cleaner
- Intake manifold

(3) Ignition System

- Spark plug(s)
- Magneto ignition system

(4) Exhaust System

- Catalytic converter
- SAI (Reed valve)

(5) Miscellaneous Items Used in Above System

- Vacuum, temperature, position, time sensitive valves and switches
- Connectors and assemblies

(6) Evaporative Control

- Fuel hose certified for ARB evaporative emissions 2008
- Fuel hose clamps
- Tethered fuel cap
- Carbon canister
- Vapor lines

NOTE: *If you require warranty service in Canada and your product was sold by MTD Products Limited within Canada to the retailer you purchased it from in Canada then the MTD Consumer Group Inc portion of this warranty will be honored by MTD Products Limited in Canada.*